Power reform bill hits snag in Congress

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2001 ★★68 ~~70~~ PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 171 ₱15

1,020 out of 5,958 pass CPA exams

A TOTAL of 1,020 out of 5,958 passed the licensure examination for Certified Public Accountants given by the Board of Accountancy in Manila, Baguio, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Iloilo and Legazpi cities this May. *(See complete list on Pages A6-A7 and at the www.inq7.net website.)*

The top 20 highest placers are the following:

1,020/ A6

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Four waterless days coming** METRO / A25
- **Comelec cites 'honest mistakes'** ACROSS / A14
- **Wahid allies rampage anew** WORLD / A11
- **76ers tie series vs Bucks** SPORTS / A22

Gov't imposes news blackout on AFP blitz

BY MARTIN MARFIL, JULIET JAVELLANA, CARLITO PABLO AND ARMAND NOCUM

DO NOT expect to get a blow-by-blow account of the military's operations against the Abu Sayyaf this time.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday imposed a news blackout on the military offensive against the bandits holding 20 hostages from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan.

And senators were generally supportive of the President's decision.

During her weekly news conference, Ms Macapagal appealed to the media not to interview leaders and members of the Abu Sayyaf, saying that media exposure only emboldened the group.

Asked if radio stations would be barred from interviewing the Abu Sayyaf, she replied: "We would request you to do that, please, because that is what makes them brave. That is the psychology of the terrorist, they want to have international acclaim."

"It is not a patriotic act to give them that forum," she told newsmen.

During a radio interview on Monday, Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Ahmad Salayuddin, alias Abu Sabaya, claimed responsibility for the raid on Dos Palmas.

In another radio interview yesterday, Sabaya warned that the Abu Sayyaf would kill the hostages if the government launched a military offensive.

Butch Canoy of Radio Mindanao Network (RMN) said the network would continue to entertain Sabaya's calls.

GOV'T/ A18

PRESIDENT Macapagal presents a picture of supreme confidence as she downplays the impact of the Palawan kidnappings on her administration. "Things happen like this," she told a news conference in Malacañang. JOAN BONDOC

PALAWAN KIDNAPPING

Just a 'blip' in RP recovery–Macapagal

BY JULIET LABOG-JAVELLANA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the kidnapping of 20 people in Palawan by Abu Sayyaf bandits was just "a blip" in the country's economic recovery amid investor jitters over the latest hostage drama.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index on Tuesday slid 9.69 points to 1385.43 after shedding 1.1 percent the previous day.

Even so, the peso closed higher at 50.50 against the US dollar, slightly up from 50.77 Monday.

"If this drags on, just like what happened to the kidnap victims of the Abu Sayyaf last year, the market will suffer," Gonzalo Bongolan, research director of PCCI Securities & Brokers, warned.

"Of course, there's a blip there," Ms Macapagal told a news conference in

JUST/ A18

TRADERS at the Philippine Stock Exchange don't seem to be very upbeat as bad news sends share prices down. AP

Military declares open season on bandits

BY CARLITO PABLO

THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines yesterday declared an open season on the Abu Sayyaf bandit group that kidnapped 20 people at Palawan's Dos Palmas resort on Sunday.

"The AFP will welcome any group that can neutralize the Abu Sayyaf. They will be rewarded," AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan told newsmen.

Reward or no reward, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front vowed to help the government in securing the release of the 20 hostages, including three Americans.

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced on Monday night that the government was offering a P100-million bounty for information leading to the capture of Abu Sayyaf leaders and followers involved in the kidnapping.

In a press briefing, Adan said there were residents who had organized themselves into armed groups in the island-provinces of Sulu and Basilan where the Abu Sayyaf was known to operate.

"We are not encouraging vigilantes, but we know that in these areas there are armed groups who are not enemies of the government," he said.

Adan said any of these armed groups could track down on its own

MILITARY/ A18

COMELEC

as of 3:30 p.m., May 29

97 COCs (95.10%)

1	DE CASTRO	15,605,121
2	FLAVIER	11,276,684
3	OSMEÑA	11,102,434
4	DRILON	10,880,075
5	ARROYO	10,806,861
6	MAGSAYSAY	10,794,941
7	VILLAR	10,757,296
8	PANGILINAN	10,534,306
9	ANGARA	10,388,133
10	LACSON	10,190,565
11	RECTO	10,075,210
12	EJERCITO	10,038,683
13	HONASAN	9,970,815
14	ENRILE	9,237,333
15	SANTIAGO	9,204,953
16	PUNO	8,337,018
17	TAÑADA	7,827,894
18	MERCADO	7,514,402
19	PAGDANGANAN	6,865,227
20	HERRERA	6,504,566
21	MONSOD	6,418,224
22	MADRIGAL	4,810,781
23	RASUL	4,797,509
24	CHATO	4,614,569
25	YASAY	4,414,196

Cebu votes push Recto up to No. 11

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

SOLID votes for the People Power Coalition in Cebu yesterday propelled erstwhile 13th placer Ralph Recto to the 11th spot as the Commission on Elections suspended the official canvassing at 3:30 p.m.

With 97 out of the 102 certificates of canvass (COC) counted, Recto widened his lead over 14th placer Juan Ponce Enrile by a commanding 837,877 votes, up from only 276,000 on Monday.

But former Immigration Com-

CEBU/ A19

Where are Dos Palmas hostages?

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT AND JONATHAN F. MA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The military is focusing its rescue operations on Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi, also known as Mapun Island, despite the Abu Sayyaf's claim Monday that it had taken the 20 people it abducted from a Palawan resort to Basilan and Sulu.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling Jr. yesterday said there had been no Abu Sayyaf landings at the two provinces, based on reports from "assets and informants."

"I'm not denying that they are now in Basilan or Sulu. But there are no indications that will prove that they are now (there)," he said.

Military operations are continuing despite Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya's threat yesterday to kill all the hostages if an offensive were launched against him and his cohorts.

Eleven naval vessels had been dispatched to Sulu, Basilan and Tawi-Tawi, five of which are now at Mapun and serving as blockade.

Camiling said reinforcements from the 2nd Marine Brigade had also been sent to Mapun, which is 136 nautical miles from Palawan.

He said government troops were under strict instructions to "secure the lives of the hostages," but admitted that the military had limited resources.

Agence France Presse reported that earlier yesterday, Supt. Candido Casimiro, police chief of Sulu, said villagers sighted the hostages being unloaded in Jolo on Monday.

The wire agency quoted Camiling as saying that the military had checked this out, with a "negative result."

In Manila, Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said the search for the hostages was continuing in the coastal towns and islands of Palawan, toward the south of the province and extending down to the Sulu archipelago.

"We are still hopeful that they have not gone to Sulu," Adan said.

WHERE/ A18

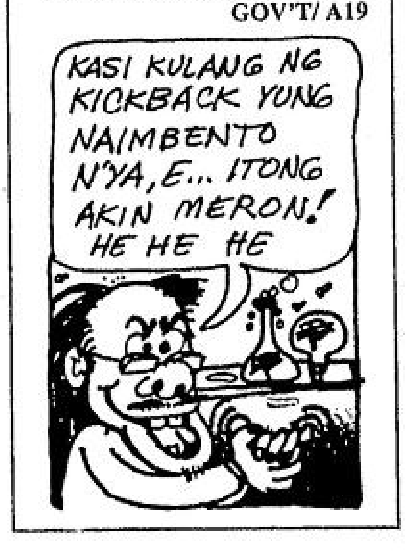
Gov't snubbed 'perpetual power plant'?

BY VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Had the government promoted a Cordillera-invented self-energizing power plant, consumers would not have been burdened with the highest electricity rates in Southeast Asia, according to the inventor.

Cordillera inventor Roland Labador said he personally handed the plans over to the aides of then

GOV'T/ A19



KASI KULANG NG KICKBACK YUNG NAIMBENTO N'YA, E... ITONG AKIN MERON! HE HE HE

GMA warns kidnappers of 'a rain of bullets'

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

THE BANDIT group Abu Sayyaf would have to contend with "a rain of bullets" if it refused to release the 20 people it abducted Sunday, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

She aired the warning at a press conference in Malacañang wherein she also announced that, "as Commander in Chief," she had "directed the Armed Forces to put up small permanent mini-camps on all the islands in the Philippines, especially in Mindanao," to deny sanctuary to the bandits.

"Soldiers should be posted on big or small islands to conduct patrols at all times," she said, speaking in Filipino.

Asked if the military was capable of fortifying all the islands, the President expressed confidence that this could be done.

Addressing the Abu Sayyaf, she said: "You better release the people you abducted while you still have the time. If you don't, bullets will rain down on you."

But the bandits' spokesperson Abu Sabaya said his group would "not think twice" about killing all the three Americans and 17 Filipinos seized from the Dos Palmas Arreceffi Island Resort in Puerto Princesa City if the military launched an all-out offensive.

"If we encounter the military and find out they are operating against us, we will kill all the hostages," Sabaya, speaking by satellite phone, told Rey Bayogin, station manager of the Radio Mindanao Network (RMN) in Zamboanga City.

"We are ready to die fighting. This is suicide. The government knows what to do. The government knows our capability," Sabaya said.

RMN is a privately owned radio station that the bandits called fre-

GMA/ A19

MAY DAGDAG-SINGIT DIN !

Power bill hits snag

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

THE EXPECTED ratification by Congress of the controversial power sector reform bill ran into a problem yesterday when the Senate's final draft of the bill turned up changes that were reportedly done without the approval of its bicameral committee panel.

Sen. John Osmeña, the chair of the Senate panel, was fit to be tied when he found out that changes had been made in the Senate version, or the bicameral committee panel report, which had been sent to the House for review.

The Senate and House bicameral conference committee was set to meet today to reconcile their respective versions of the bill, after which the final draft would have gone to the two chambers for ratification.

Osmeña said he would reconvene the Senate bicameral committee panel today, which would certainly mean a delay in the bill's approval.

Beyond saying that the changes had been done without the approval of the panel, Osmeña would not say what the changes were or who was responsible for making them.

Sen. Franklin Drilon said the latest development could cause some delay in the approval of the power bill.

He was optimistic, however, that Congress could still tackle the measure during its last regular session next week before it finally adjourns.

The House side of the bicameral conference committee had completed the House's final draft yesterday.

Negros Occidental Rep. Julio Ledesma, chair of the House energy committee, said he was "99 percent sure" the Senate and the House would ratify the bill's final version today.

"The bill is very fair. Anyone who opposes it will be an obstructionist because it will strengthen the nation's economy," Ledesma said.

Osmeña, who had dispatched what he thought was the final Senate version to the House after the Senate bicameral panel met yesterday, told reporters only "minimal changes" were made in the bill.

What was new in the Senate version, he said, was the addition of a provision that would grant the poor or marginalized sector a "special subsidized rate" for an unlimited time.

"The bill is just going to say that 'a socialized pricing mechanism called a lifeline rate for the marginalized end users shall be subsidized by the Energy Regulatory Commission," Osmeña said.

The bill defines "lifeline rate" as the subsidized rate given to low-income captive market end-users who cannot afford to pay the full cost.

The ERC, which replaces the Energy Regulatory Board in the new law, will be the one to set the "lifeline rate."

It will also determine who will constitute the so-called marginalized end-users.

As the lawmakers grappled with the final version of the controversial bill, militant groups were gathering their forces protesting the measure.

Members of the Sanlakas and the Freedom from Debt Coalition picketed the Westin Philippine Plaza in Pasay City where the bicameral conference committee was meeting.

In a symbolic protest, they all tore up their electricity bills.

The FDC has also called for a 10-minute power shutdown today as a sign of protest.

The power shutdown will start at 8:30 p.m. in Metro Manila and other key cities nationwide, the FDC said.

Student groups from Anakbayan, the League of Filipino Students, and the Student Christian Movement of the Philippines held a lightning rally at the oil depot in Pandacan, Manila, at around 8 a.m. *With reports from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau, and Alcuin Papa*

Erap arraigned twice on June 27

FORMER President Joseph Estrada will be arraigned twice on June 27, for plunder and for perjury.

This developed yesterday as the Sandiganbayan moved his arraignment for perjury from May 31 to June 27 after denying the motion of the Ombudsman to have the case consolidated with the plunder case.

As a result, there will be two arraignments set for June 27, the first for the plunder case filed with the Sandiganbayan's third division and the second for the perjury case filed with the fourth division.

In a ruling that capped a dramatic court hearing, the anti-graft court's fourth division gave in to both the prosecution and the defense's motion to have the arraignment of the deposed leader postponed, as it entertained the motion to quash the perjury case filed by Estrada's lawyers.

Estrada, currently undergoing treatment at the heavily secured Veterans Memorial Medical Center for minor ailments, was detained after being indicted April 25 on a non-bailable, capital offense of plundering the country's economy.

Sandiganbayan Justice Narciso Nario said Estrada's lawyer has a pending court petition to dismiss the perjury case on grounds that government prosecutors committed errors in filing the charge.

Prosecutors say the case arose from Estrada's alleged misdeclaration of the value of his assets in 1999, when he reported a net worth of P35 million instead of the hundreds of millions of pesos that evidence indicates he stashed in secret bank accounts and real estate.

There have also been concerns about Estrada's security if he is required to appear regularly before the Sandiganbayan.

His lawyers earlier asked the court to place him under house arrest for security and comfort instead of detaining him in a police camp in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, when he is cleared to leave the hospital.

With an AP report

Subic graft case may include Erap

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE OMBUDSMAN yesterday said jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada might be included in the graft charges filed against Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chair Felicito Payumo and an SBMA investor over an allegedly highly irregular deal in the freeport.

The deal, involving a scheme to "offset" the rental arrears of the investor, had been approved by Estrada on Feb. 3, 1999.

The Ombudsman said the ousted president, once included as a co-respondent, would be required to answer charges that he violated the Anti-Graft Law in approving the "offsetting" scheme for the land leased from the SBMA by Antonio Lopa.

Lopa owns the SBMA-based Asian Armored Vehicles Technologies Corp. which manufactures armored personnel carriers for the military.

Payumo, who allegedly lobbied for the approval of the scheme, reportedly received a bullet-proof Chevrolet Suburban car from Lopa.

Both Lopa and Payumo were Estrada's classmates at the Ateneo High School.

"Once we determine that the former president benefited from the deal, the Ombudsman will require him to submit his reply," said lawyer Emilio Gonzalez, director for General Investigation and Public Assistance Services of the Office of the Ombudsman for Luzon.

The ousted president could be included as a co-respondent even though he was not formally charged if it can be established that he used his immense powers to approve the deal.

The complaint was filed by Edwin Piano, a resident of Olongapo City and former SBMA employee. He named Payumo and Lopa as respondents.

According to the complaint-affidavit, Asian Armored had been unable to make lease payments to the SBMA for the past five years, its rentals amounting to P21 million.

Piano alleged that Lopa and Payumo connived to avoid payment of the lease rentals by allegedly making it appear that the Lopa company had offered two armored personnel carriers to SBMA to offset its unpaid lease payments.

Instead of two APCs, however, the SBMA was allegedly given the bullet-proof Chevrolet Suburban that was assigned for Payumo's use.

Gonzalez said Payumo had already submitted his counter-affidavit.

Lopa has asked to be given more time to file a counter-affidavit, said Gonzalez who vowed to finish the investigation next month.

Payumo has downplayed Piano's suit as "mere harassment," saying the charges were "malicious, bereft of truth and purely intended to malign" him.

Speaking through lawyer Frank Abella, the SBMA deputy administrator, Payumo said Piano was an appointee of his predecessor, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon.

He defended the scheme as a *dacion en pago* (payment in kind) settlement that the SBMA normally resorts to for investors affected by the financial crunch.

Abella said it was not true that Asian Armored promised to provide two APCs to offset its unpaid lease rentals.

He said what Lopa's company offered was a bullet-proof Chevrolet Suburban with a value of P4.9 million and not P8 million as claimed by Piano.

"Only the P4.9 million amount of the vehicle was offset against the arrears of the company and not the entire arrears of P21 million," he said.

Abella also belied the claim that the luxury car was assigned to Payumo for his own personal use. He said the car was being used for visiting dignitaries.

7 rebs slain

SEVEN communist guerrillas have been killed and three soldiers wounded in the worst clash since the two sides opened peace talks last month, a military spokesman said yesterday.

A gunfight erupted after an Army patrol encountered members of the communist New People's Army in the town of San Jose, Tarlac, on Monday.

Aside from killing seven NPA rebels, the troops also captured seven rifles and six home-made shotguns along with a short-wave radio, according to the spokesman.

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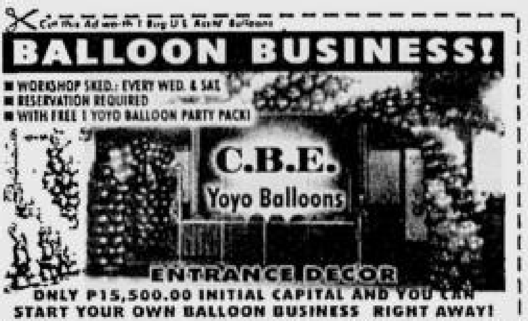

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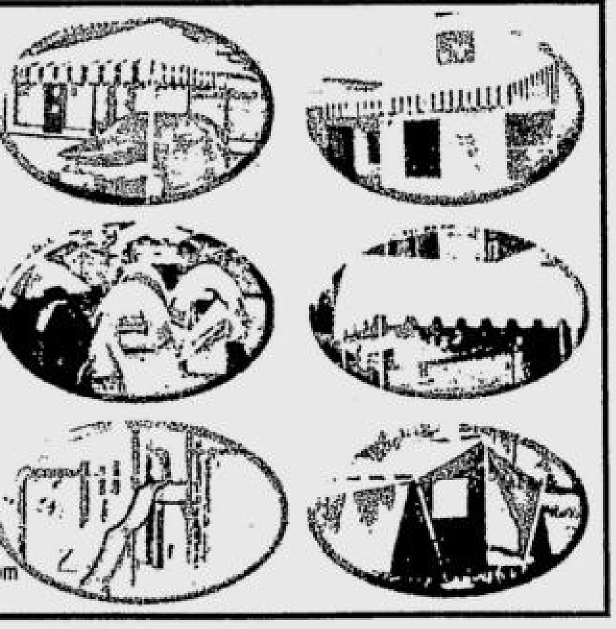

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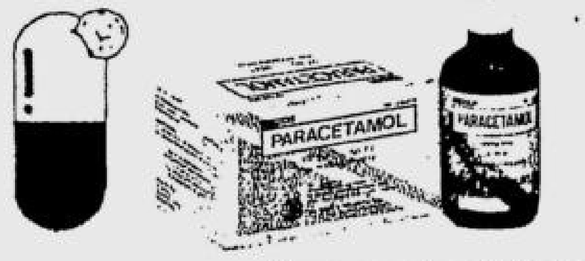

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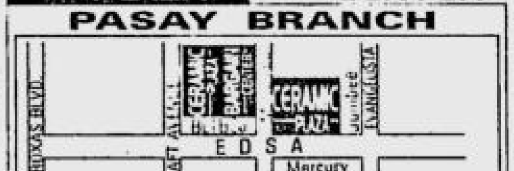

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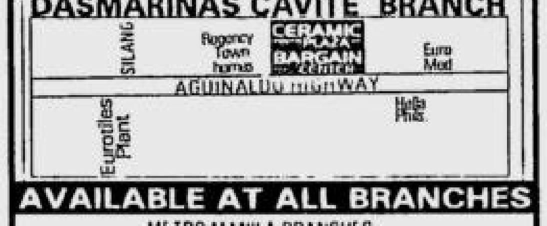

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Farmers seek ouster of DAR chief

By C. Balana

THE 4,000-strong Task Force Mapalad, composed mainly of farmers from Negros province, has urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to replace Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza for alleged incompetence before it is too late.

The farmers made the appeal following the failure of the Department of Agrarian Reform to come up with a comprehensive plan to successfully implement the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program of the government.

"If President Arroyo is truly sincere in her commitment to uplift the lives of the poor largely represented by farmers and farm workers, she should start scrutinizing the performance of her Cabinet officials and do what is best to ensure that the poor people's legitimate demands are being met by her secretaries," said the group.

Yesterday, some 500 farmers from the group picketed the department to demand Braganza's ouster. The DAR secretary, however, was in Malacañang attending the Cabinet meeting.

Gregorio Paclibar, president of TFM-Negros, said that Braganza's performance in the department was "below par." He said most of their demands just fell on deaf ears.

BRAGANZA

"We have this inkling that Secretary Braganza would not do anything to make us happy on the 13th anniversary of the CARP on June 10," said Paclibar.

"President Arroyo must do something about it or the farmers' frustration might turn into something that she would not like," he warned.

Paclibar also said that since Braganza assumed his post last February, there have been many promises he made to the farmers that he eventually broke.

"The DAR is suffering from a credibility gap as promises were not turned into performance," said Cesar Cabrera, one of the beneficiaries still wanting to be installed in the 33-hectare Hacienda Agueda in Barangay Lalagsan in La Castellana, Negros Occidental.

On April 5, Braganza went to the province supposedly to install 88 farmer-beneficiaries in five haciendas mostly in the town of La Castellana.

But Cabrera said the secretary, backed by at least 20 contingents from the military and police "allowed himself to be intimidated" by four armed security guards of Rene Espinos, the former landowner of the 14-hectare Hacienda Espinos also in Barangay Lalagsan.

Cabrera said that Braganza failed in his promise to issue installation orders and proceed with the physical installation of the beneficiaries in their haciendas.

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Another cop owns Dacer abduction

By Dave M. Veridiano

A FORMER Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force agent who is one of the 22 accused in the kidnap-slaying of public relations man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer has surrendered, but continued to protest his innocence, saying he thought he was participating in an anti-kidnap operation.

"I am clean. I am not guilty. I was made to believe we were arresting notorious kidnappers," said SP03 Ruperto A. Nemeno.

Nemeno, who surrendered to Philippine National Police Chief Leandro Mendoza on Monday night, admitted that he was one of those who snatched Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito, but denied participating in their killing.

Like the other eight policemen who earlier surrendered, Nemeno claimed that he was also made to believe that he was participating in an operation against a notorious kidnap group.

He said he gave himself up in order to clear his name.

Nemeno was presented to the media yesterday by Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Nemeno said he was the one who flagged down Dacer's white Toyota Revo and shoved Dacer and Corbito inside a waiting white Toyota Lancer car on Nov. 24 at the corner of Osmeña Highway and Zobel Roxas Avenue in Manila.

Confessions made by other witnesses revealed that the two had been first brought to Dasmariñas, Cavite, before being killed, and their burned remains buried in a forested area in Indang, Cavite.

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DOJ scraps unit for defying order to go after Gringo

By Rocky Nazareno

FOR REFUSING to take action against Sen. Gregorio Honasan, the 30-man Intelligence Security Operations Group of the Witness Protection Program has been ordered abolished by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

In an order dated May 9, Perez abolished the ISOG and transferred its operations directly under his office.

The ISOG, whose personnel came from the Philippine Marines and the elite Philippine Air Force Airborne Unit, provides security for state witnesses under the DOJ's Witness and Security Program.

A DOJ source revealed that the main reason for the abolition was the unit's failure to follow an order by Perez "to take action" against Honasan.

Honasan had gone into hiding after he was ordered arrested for his alleged complicity in the May 1 siege of Malacañang.

The source noted that all of the members of the ISOG are members of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan (RAM), which Honasan led in seven coup attempts against the Aquino administration.

They were taken in as ISOG personnel as part of concessions agreed upon by the government and the rightist rebels.

"(The ISOG) refused to take action against Gringo," the source added.

The source said personnel from the Philippine National Police would take over the posts left by the Marines and Air Force men in the ISOG.

Perez has also appointed a new WPP director in Senior State Prosecutor Pamela L. Escobar. She replaces SSP Philip I. Aguinaldo who was promoted director of the Provincial Prosecutors Office of Region 1.

The source clarified that the abolition order was just part of the DOJ's "streamlining and rescreening process."

"They are contractual employees and its just part of their rescreening ordered by Secretary Perez," the source said.

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Engine failure blamed for chopper crash

LOCAL investigators and foreign experts have pointed to engine failure as the cause of the May 18 crash of the Bell-407 helicopter in Puerto Princesa, Palawan that killed six persons, including the mother of Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes.

Five experts from manufacturer Bell Helicopter Inc. and engine maker Rolls Royce-Allison, who flew in last week to help the Air Transportation Office in the probe, however, said they would bring burned parts of the engine to the US for further analysis, an ATO officials said.

Saturnino de la Cruz, technical assistant of ATO chief Adelberto Yap, said that the team of investigators and experts found some "failed parts" of the engine, which they believed caused it to malfunction while the chopper was airborne.

"So initially we're eyeing engine failure as the cause of the crash," he said in an interview.

The parts of the engine, however, had to be brought to the US for more in-depth analysis by metallurgical experts "to determine where the engine failure originated," De la Cruz added.

The chartered Bell-407 helicopter crashed in a bamboo thicket in Barangay Manalo, 40 km away from Puerto Princesa City, on the afternoon of May 18, killing its pilot and five passengers, including Lualhati Reyes, mother of Governor Reyes.

Hours later, a Sikorsky helicopter which retrieved the bodies of the crash victims, also crashed after take-off as it got entangled in trees, killing all seven Air Force men on board. Pilot error had been blamed for the second crash.

De la Cruz said the grounding of Bell-407 helicopters would remain in effect until the real cause of the crash was determined.

Once the part of the engine that caused the crash has been pinpointed, the ATO would issue a safety circular to air charter operators using Bell-407 helicopters. After the operators have complied with this, the grounding would be lifted, he said.

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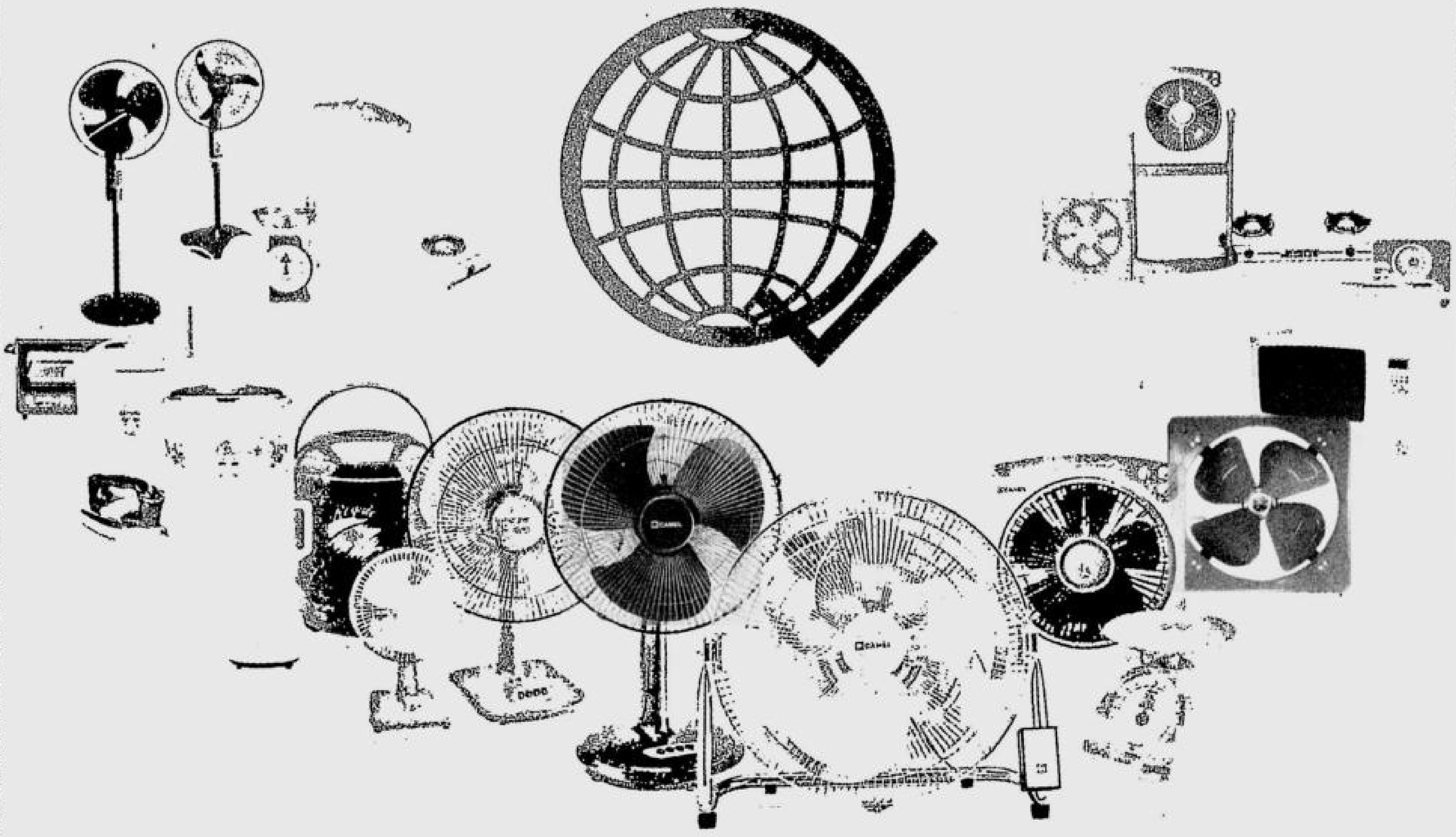

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Roll of successful examinees:

A

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D

DACANAY, JEROME ANTONIO; DACIR, ARIES GALANG; DAGA, KATHERINE DEL ROSARIO; DALANAO, HEIDILIZA GUIWANAS; DALMACIO, MIRIAM CRUZ; DARDO, FELAMIE INSULAR; DATILES, MARIE SIDNEY SALGADO; DATOC, ROMMEL PROCESO BARCELLANO; DATOY, RICHARD SUMAMPONG; DATU, JEAN MARIE ZABALA; DAVID, GEMMA LAGMAN; DAVID, MARIE GRACE DIZON; DAVID, OSCAR ANTHONY CADONDOY; DAZA, NANCY GERONA; DE CHAVEZ, MICHAEL BELEN; DE GUZMAN, ELMER RANIN; DE GUZMAN, ROMMEL JOSE; DE JEMIL, MARVIN ESPLANA; DE JESUS, CHRISTOPHER TOPICO; DE LA CRUZ, TROY DE JESUS; DE LAS LLAGAS, ERIC JUNIO; DE LENA, DARLYN ROCACORBA; DE LEON, ABIGAIL MARIE NANALE; DE LEON, GLEN DE VERA; DE LEON, RONALD ALLAN ESGUERRA; DE LOS REYES, PINKY JOY ABESTA; DE VERA, ARMENIA ASUNCION; DE VERA, LAILANI MALIGRO; DECENA, ERNESTO JR DE GUZMAN; DEL ROSARIO, EVANGELINE PASCUAL; DEL ROSARIO, RENATO JR BONIFACIO; DEL ROSARIO, SANDRA CAROLINE YANES; DELA CRUZ, ERWIN PETALLANA; DELA CRUZ, JAIME III TRIA, DELA CRUZ, LYSSANDER RODAN CASTANEDA; DELA CRUZ, MARIA LUISA LIPATA; DELA CRUZ, RODOLFO JR AQUINO; DELA CRUZ, SHEILA MARIE DALUZ; DELA CRUZ, VICTORINO JR DEQUITO; DELA ROSA, MARITZA ESQUIVEL, DELFINADO, LAVELLA CABATIC; DELOS REYES, MARIA CARMELA MUNOZ; DELOS SANTOS, JERIANNE VILLANUEVA; DELOS SANTOS, MICHAEL MIRA; DELOTINA, RICHIE MONTECLARO; DESALES, JOSE ROELPH EUDELA; DEVELA, THERESA MARTINEZ; DIAZ, CHERRY LOU CASTILLO; DIAZ, MARIA ROCHELLE SILOTERIO; DIAZ, MELANIE VILLALUZ; DICUANGCO, CARLO VICENTE BASAS; DILAG, REGINA MARIE CARREON; DIMARUCUT, ALONA SANTOS; DIONISIO, JENNIFER CAINGAT, DIZON, ROZELYNNE DE LEON; DOLATRE, BELINDA LAT; DOLIGOSA, LOUIE LUMAMPAO; DOLIQUE, ESTELITA MANDAPAT, DOLOSA, ARLENE ATIENZA; DOMALANTA, EMILYN MACAALAY, DOMINGO, ALLAN FRONDA, DOMINGO, CAROLIN RUABURO; DOMINGO, ELMER SOTELO; DOMINGO, JEAN PAULINE PERNADA; DOMINGO, JULIE ANN EBARVIA; DOMINGO, RIZA GOMEZ; DOMINGO, ROSELLE GOMEZ; DONASCO, RONALD APASO; DOREZA, JOCELYN PADDAYUMAN; DORIA, JOANA ANDRADA; DUNGCA, MEREILLE DECLARO; DURANO, BRYAN PAUL CUMLA; DY, ALIDE WONG; DY, MARJORIE JOY MATOL; DYANGCO, CHERRYL AVILA

E

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G

GABOTEN, MARILYN BITAGA; GABOTERO, REMELITA NAONG; GABRIEL, EMILY MALLARE; GACUSAN, EUNICE ALVAREZ; GAGNI, RHODORA FORTES, GAISANO, JOANNE CHAN; GALANG, ROBIN SOLIMAN; GALANGGA, JANET GAMBOA; GALAPON, LIZA RHEA GALIZA; GALARPE, DONNA MARIE VIE BALMOCENA; GALAY, LANI SATO; GALINDEZ, MARITES DOMPOR; GALLETA, HEIDI OLAIRES; GALVEZ, MARIE BERNADETTE CATBAGAN; GAN, WELIDO SZE, GAOAT, JANET LUMANG; GARCIA, AMIEL LAPUEBLA; GARCIA, GENEVIEVE TABACUG; GARCIA, IRENIO JR BRAVO; GARCIA, JOY ABAGON; GARCIANO, LIAN SIAO; GARDE, MARIA CRISTINA BUENCAMINO; GARGANTA, NOREEN AGUSTIN; GARING, FLORDELIZA GATDULA; GARINO, MARIA LOURDES CABALFIN; GATELA, DIOSCORO JR VELARDE; GERALDIZO, AILEEN YU; GERONIMO, EDLYNN SOPOCO, GIL, ANGELITA COLLADO; GILLANA, GENEVIVE SANTILLAN; GINETE, DEXTER WEE; GLIANE, CHARO LORICA; GLORIA, PHILIP SAMPANA; GNILO, KARL OFFEMARIA; GO, JEFFREY CHUA; GO, KAREN SUSAN VOCES; GOBOT, JURANNI AQUINO; GOLES, RAMEL CUBILO, GOMBA, ROWENA LEBRINO; GOMEZ, JOSEFINO RABO; GONAO, MAIDA JIMENEZ; GONZALES, APRILIZA AYROSO; GONZALES, CIELO GALURA; GONZALES, DULCE AMOR LACATAN; GONZALES, NINO BILASON, GREGORIO, MA LOIS MALAY; GUANZING, JUJETTE MARQUEZ; GUARIN, RHOEL ASETRE; GUCE, JANETH RAZ; GUIAO, LAILA RAMOS; GUILAMBO, MARY ANN GALANGCO; GUILING, TADJUDIN MITMUG; GUIMMAYEN, SHERRY LANE ACANG; GUINTO, ENRICO ARTURO ALINGOG; GUMALLAOI, MENALD RAFAEL; GUMBAN, EVA MARIE

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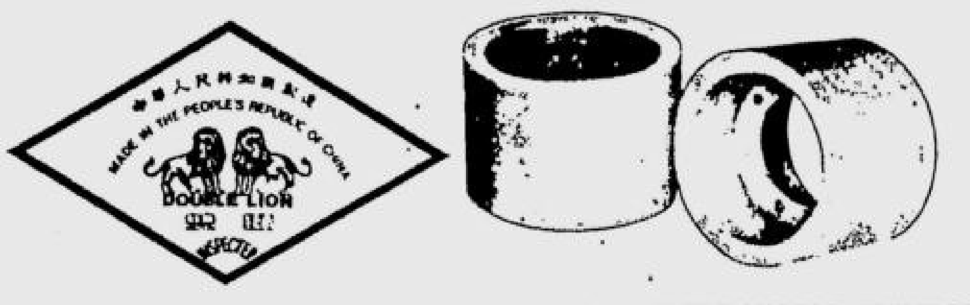

The public is hereby duly advised that our client, THIRD WORLD EXIMPORT CORPORATION is the registered lawful owner of the trademark DOUBLE LION & DEVICE as evidenced by Registration Certificate No. SR-5719 issued on September 24, 1981, and Registration Certificate No. 30043 issued on October 14, 1981 for use on consumable parts particularly hullers.

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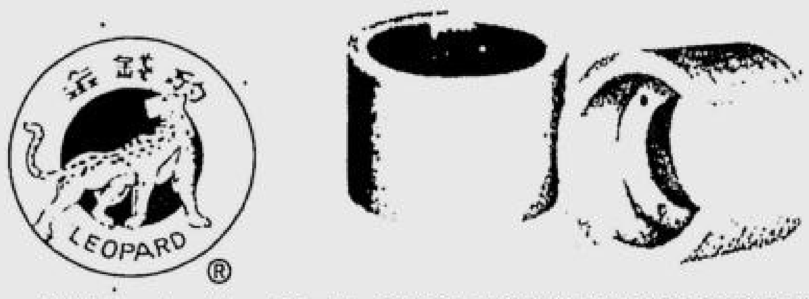

The public is hereby duly notified that THIRD WORLD EXIMPORT CORPORATION is the duly registered and lawful owner of the trademark LEOPARD for use on consumable parts particularly huller, under Registration Certificate No. 54659 issued by the Bureau of Patents, Trademarks and Technology Transfer last March 16, 1993 and the holder of Copyright Certificate No. 0-93-437 for LEOPARD & DEVICE issued by the National Library last May 26, 1993.

Warning is hereby given to all manufacturers, distributors, and/or dealers of products bearing the trademark, LEOPARD and LEOPARD & DEVICE not coming from THIRD WORLD EXIMPORT CORPORATION to cease and desist immediately from their illegal acts as THIRD WORLD EXIMPORT CORPORATION is prepared to protect and enforce its rights to the trademark LEOPARD and LEOPARD & DEVICE to the fullest extent of the law.

SIOSON, SAN DIEGO & ASSOCIATES
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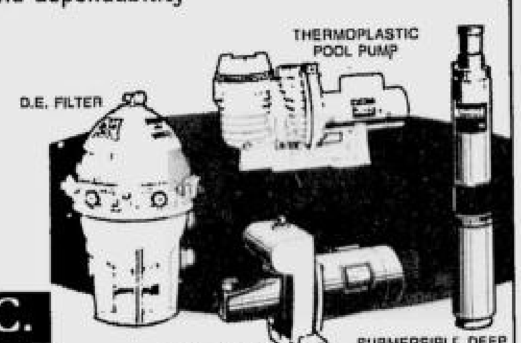

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1,020 out . . . (From page 6)

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H

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I

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J

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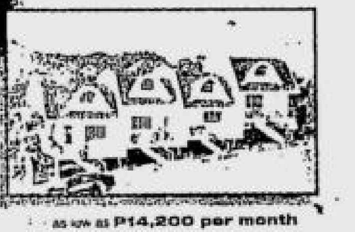

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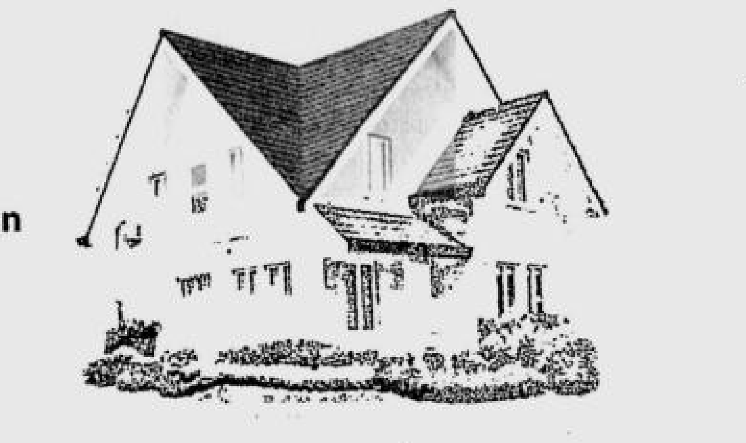

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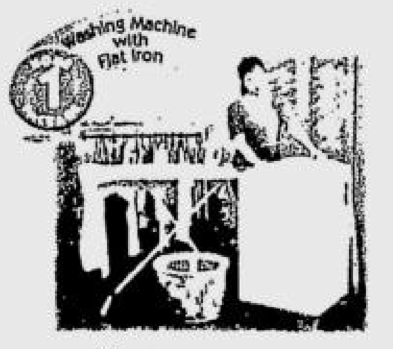

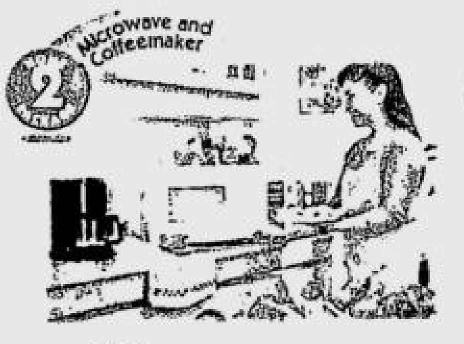

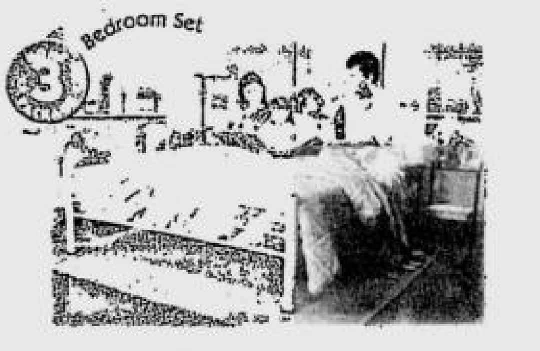

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OPINION

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Folly of payoffs

EDITORIAL

NO ransom is going to be paid in exchange for the release of the 20 hostages who were abducted Sunday by the Abu Sayyaf from the Dos Palmas Arreceffi Island Resort near Puerto Princesa. In fact, there will be no negotiations about payment of ransom, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said Monday. Instead, the government is putting up a P100-million reward for those who can provide information leading to the arrest of the leaders and members of the criminal group. Addressing the Abu Sayyaf directly, Ms Macapagal warned that the government intended to "finish what you started" by meeting "force with force" and matching "arms with arms."

It would be extremely difficult to argue against such a tough no-ransom policy. The payment of ransom, as every government has discovered, only serves to whet the desires of kidnappers, be they rebels, which the Abu Sayyaf members pretend to be, or simply greedy criminals, which they really are. Indeed the nation's experience with the criminal band provides a perfect example of the tragic folly of paying off kidnappers.

In April last year, several Abu Sayyaf members raided Sipadan Island in Malaysia and abducted 21 Western tourists and Malaysian staff members of a plush resort. In Jolo and Basilan where they brought their hostages, the Abu Sayyaf grabbed almost everyone who wandered into their hiding places, including Filipino and foreign journalists and evangelists, so that by the time the crisis blew over, the bandits had held a total of 53 victims at one time or the other.

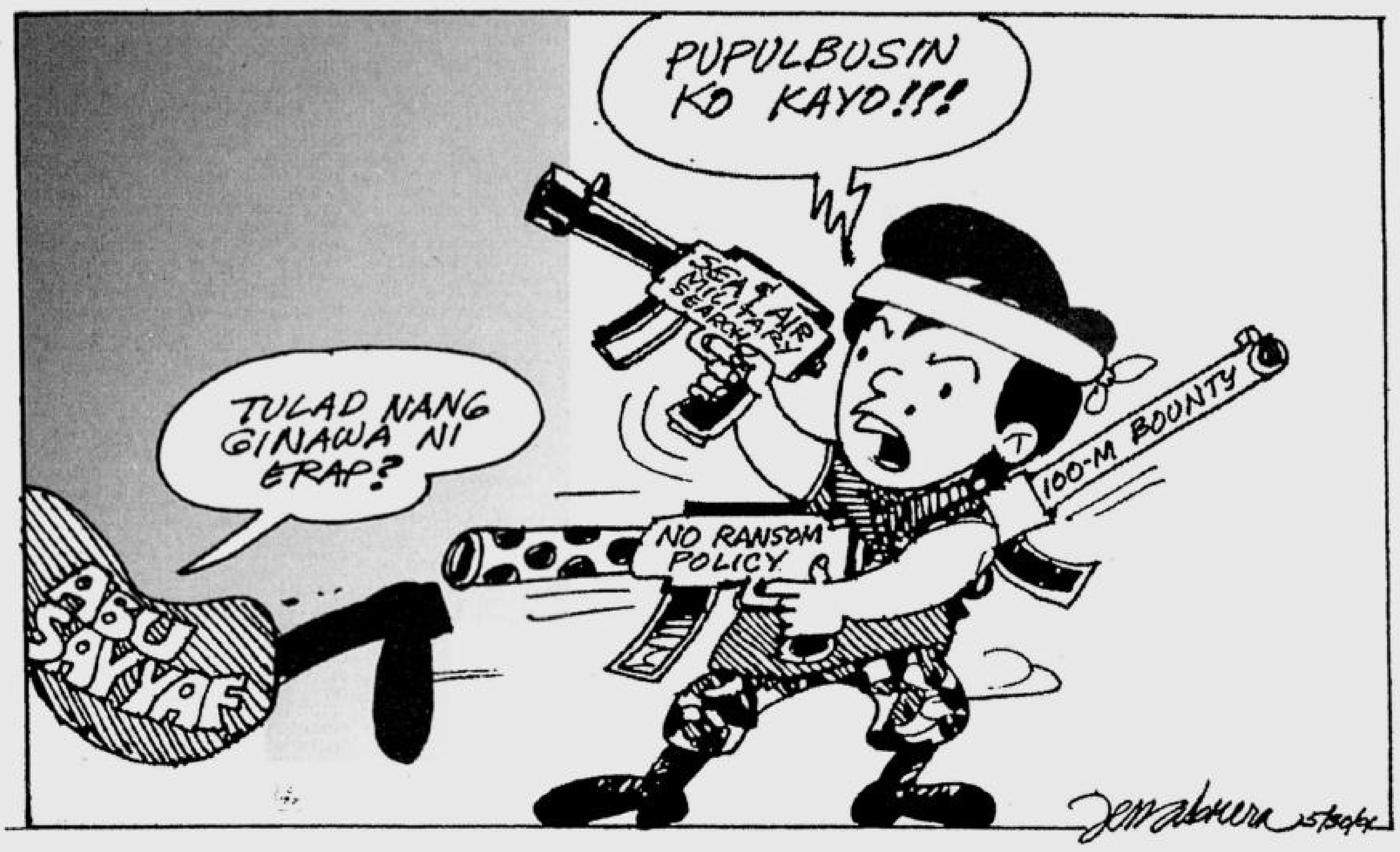
In the meantime, government representatives, led by Flagship Projects Secretary Robert Aventajado, were secretly negotiating the monetary terms for the release of hostages while publicly denying that the payment of ransom was being discussed. And in a very puzzling move, they agreed to negotiate the release of the hostages in batches instead of working for the release of all the hostages as a group. The result was predictable. The Abu Sayyaf escalated its ransom demands almost after it released a hostage or a group. Thus while it accepted a P1-million ransom for the freedom of 10 foreign journalists early in June, it wouldn't settle for anything less than P20 million for the release of a Malaysian national more than one month later. For the release of four other Malaysian hostages, it raised its asking price a little bit by demanding—and getting—P90 million. After that, the going rate was $1 million for every Western hostage, so that by the time most of the hostages had been freed in September, the Abu Sayyaf was estimated to have earned anywhere between P500 million and P800 million for providing "board and lodging" to dozens of unwilling foreign and Filipino guests.

The utter failure of the strategy of negotiating and giving ransom was to be exposed in a variety of ways. With most of the hostages from Sipadan out of the way and several European governments no longer pressuring Philippine officials to cut deals with the kidnappers, the government was finally able to unleash its armed forces against the Abu Sayyaf. The result was that the remaining hostages were able to escape as the Abu Sayyaf retreated: first, two French journalists and then weeks later, born-again preacher Wilde Almeda and a handful of his followers. Much later in April this year, it was American Jeffrey Schilling's turn to be rescued in the middle of an intensified government offensive against the Abu Sayyaf.

But as they say, he who fights and runs away lives to fight another day. And in the raid on Dos Palmas, the Abu Sayyaf showed that it was far from beaten and that it had in fact become more brazen, with all the powerful weapons and the superior equipment it has acquired. The raid was carried out with cunning and military precision by a band of criminals who were confident that their boat, powered by three Volvo engines, could outrun the fastest seacraft the Philippine Navy could send after them. The Abu Sayyaf apparently undertook a modernization program with part of the multimillion-peso ransom money it earned last year, courtesy of the Estrada administration's policy of capitulation to both the Abu Sayyaf and foreign governments whose sole interest was to get their nationals back safe no matter the consequences.

But this time the Abu Sayyaf may have overreached itself. Its prize hostages are Americans and their government adheres to a no-ransom policy as the Schilling case shows. And now it is dealing with an administration that has apparently learned from the mistakes of its predecessor.

With both sides exchanging threats, there is no telling when and how this crisis will be resolved.



Appeasement encouraged Palawan kidnapping

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

APPEASEMENT. That's what caused the kidnapping of 20 tourists and employees of Dos Palmas Resort in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. When we paid ransom for the Sipadan hostages to appease their Abu Sayyaf kidnappers and made them instant millionaires, we encouraged more kidnappings. We showed that kidnapping pays. When government troops, upon orders from Malacañang, stopped chasing bandits and rebels in Mindanao to appease them enough so they would go to the conference table, that gave them a breathing spell to think about and plan another kidnapping.

Give an inch and your enemy demands a foot, the maxim goes. Invite rebels to talk peace and they demand that the talks be held abroad, say in Malaysia or the Netherlands. That gives them the opportunity to travel for free. Start appeasing them and they demand the return of their "camps," which is not theirs in the first place. You visit a detention prisoner to appease him and his followers, and they demand that he be allowed to stay in his own house instead.

Appeasement never did the appeaser any good. Former President Ramos and his generals tried to appease the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and the latter ended up with almost 50 big chunks of Philippine territory- -which they called their "camps"-—without firing a shot. Many soldiers died recovering them for the government. Ramos and his generals were professional soldiers trained to fight, but they did not want to fight. They preferred to talk instead. British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain was afraid to fight, too, and preferred to appease Adolf Hitler. That only encouraged Hitler to plunge the world into World War II, resulting in the deaths of millions of people. The United States did not want to get involved in the war and preferred to talk peace with the Japanese. While they were still talking peace, Japan launched its sneak attack on Pearl Harbor.

Appeasement never does the appeaser any good. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo talked tough the other night and I applauded her for it. No ransom, she declared. But that was also what President Estrada said before his emissaries started secretly paying ransom to the Abu Sayyaf. Only, they did not call it "ransom" but "aid" and "lodging expenses" for the hostages.

The Chinese-Filipinos are favorite targets of kidnappers because they prefer to pay ransom rather than cooperate with the police. We cannot blame them so much, however, as some of the kidnappers are policemen themselves

But President Macapagal learns fast. She has decided to pay ransom herself- -but not for the hostages but for the kidnappers: P5 million for their leader and P1 million each for his men. The money goes to any one of them who will betray his pals. They call this a "reward" but it is really a bribe. The President most likely learned this from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund for what they have offered to lend the Philippine government in exchange for the passage of the hated Power Reform Bill or Omnibus Power Bill. They call it a "loan" but it is really a bribe.

* * *

Speaking of the Power Reform Bill, they may be able to railroad it through Congress (there are many members of Congress—who like to be called "honorable"—who are ready, willing and able to accept what the IMF-WB are offering and betray their constituents) but they would be in the same hated class as the 11 pro-Erap senators who voted "no" in the impeachment trial. Media should publish the names of those who vote for the Power Reform Bill so the people will engrave their names at the bottom of their toilet bowls and remember them every time they sit there.

Also, media should publish the names of those who vote against it so that we can engrave their names in our hearts.

From the public statements of the legislators as of this writing, we can already predict who would be immortalized in toilet bowls (Sen. John Osmeña, Representatives Arnulfo Fuentebella and Federico Sandoval are the first three who come to mind) and it would be fun to have a diarrhea epidemic after the voting.

We can also predict who would have a place in the hearts of the people (Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, Rep. Enrique Garcia and, perhaps, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, to begin with).

Still, I hope that the congressional railroad will run as badly as the Philippine National Railways and break down. Or that the legislators will suddenly have pangs of conscience and vote against the bill. For anybody, except the most greedy, selfish and merciless, can readily see that the bill, if passed, would be shameful. It would show to the world once more that the Philippine Congress is for sale. And quickly, too.

The present Congress can leave the bill to the incoming one to fine-tune, remove all the loopholes and objectionable provisions before passing it. But why are they in a hurry to betray the people and dishonor themselves?

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

Isolate them

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER again the Baclayon Church in Bohol, half an hour's ride from the capital, Tagbilaran. Put up by the Jesuits in the 17th century, it had to be abandoned soon afterward because of raids by the Moros. It was near the sea, which offered the community that had grown around the church a great livelihood but also made it vulnerable to piratical depredation.

The pirates, riding fast-moving *vintas*, would materialize from the haze of early morning and sack the villages, raping, murdering, and pillaging. Unable to defend their faithful from those raids, notwithstanding that their Church bore signs of ample fortification, the Jesuits decided to move back inland. It was only during the 19th century, when the raids stopped, due to the Spanish campaign in Mindanao, that they went back to the old church by the sea, which by then had been overrun by nature, and rebuilt it.

Tagbilaran itself, as I would learn when I was there last year, comes from the words *tago* and *bilaan*—the first meaning to hide and the second meaning pirates. The name of Bohol's capital means to hide from pirates.

The fear of the seafaring marauders wasn't confined to Bohol. It was shared by the Christian community in all of the Visayas in the 17th and 18th centuries. Carigara, a town in Leyte, celebrates the feast of the Holy Cross because it ascribes its deliverance from Moro pirates at one point to the miraculous appearance of a cross in the horizon. With that, the skies darkened, the waters tossed, and the would-be marauders swiftly departed, fearing to take on heaven as much as earth. Many other places in the Visayas have similar stories.

I remembered all this in light of the Abu Sayyaf's lightning raid on Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan last Sunday. This is the first time the Abu Sayyaf has ventured this far north. Up until then, it had confined its kidnapping activities only to the Basilan area and the Borneo border. Clearly, none of the sound and fury Erap unleashed in Mindanao last year have served to dampen its members' spirits, or reduced their capacity for embarking on this enterprise. On the contrary, that the Abu Sayyaf has dared to go up north must show that it has been greatly emboldened by its successes in the past. And monumentally capacitated: everyone was asking then where all the dollars that were falling into its coffers would go. The Abu Sayyaf had become the most successful kidnap gang in the country, though it would deny it and say the gang headed by Erap and Robert Aventajado was even more successful. This raid answers it. The Abu Sayyaf has gotten bigger and bolder.

So what's its next target, Boracay?

The Abu Sayyaf's raid on Dos Palmas is just the sort of thing to stoke back to a raging flame the embers of passionate resentment against Muslims that you'll find in the Visayas and in the predominantly Christian parts of Mindanao. The memory of the piratical raids of old has by no means been erased by time, though it has been greatly diminished. It lives in rituals and skits that are essentially variations of the *moro-moro*, which was the dramatic vehicle for teaching Christianity the friars used, depicting Christians as angels and the Muslims as devils. The Sandugo festival of Bohol is replete with skits, performed with much color and fanfare by the kids, representing the struggle between God and the devil, good and evil, as the physical struggle between Christians and Muslims. Many parts of the Visayas have similar cultural presentations.

It's worse in Mindanao. A friend of mine who grew up in Zamboanga testifies to the extent of anti-Muslim sentiment there. He grew up harboring nothing but contempt for them, a sentiment he lost only when he got to Manila. Which was good, he said, because quite ironically he would go on to work for several years in Saudi Arabia.

The Abu Sayyaf raid on Dos Palmas threatens to blow the lid off again on anti-Muslim bigotry. But that is something government may **not** allow to happen this time. The Abu Sayyaf is not the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, even though it probably has cordial and even warm relations, the way the PLO and the IRA have with various Palestinian and Irish terrorist groups. And certainly the Abu Sayyaf is not the people of Muslim Mindanao, however its raids conjure the long-held image of Moros as a piratical lot. To crush the Abu Sayyaf, you have to isolate it. You do not isolate it by waging a war of attrition against the MILF and the Muslim Mindanaoans, calling them coddlers of the Abu Sayyaf. You do that, and you throw the Abu Sayyaf straight into their arms. You do that and you turn the Abu Sayyaf's fight for survival into the MILF's and the Muslim people's fight for survival.

That was exactly what Erap did, which proved disastrous for the nation while proving immensely beneficial for his protégés in the Puwersa ng Masa. Of course, his all-out war on Muslim Mindanao and not just on the Abu Sayyaf was popular with the Christians in the Visayas and Mindanao. Jingoistic wars often are, preying as they do on the fears and prejudices of the public. That was what made the American colonial venture popular with the American public, too, notwithstanding America's anti-imperialist tradition, stoking as it did, with much help from Randolph Hearst, racist attitudes toward people that were presumed to have tails and live on trees. As the Abu Sayyaf raid on Dos Palmas show, Erap's approach is wrong not only in that it was unenlightened but in that it didn't work. It hasn't crushed the Abu Sayyaf, it has made it stronger.

I applaud wholeheartedly President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's tough stance. Nothing less is needed against the Abu Sayyaf. But the President might also wish to consider giving the most strenuous assurances that the government means to go all out only against the Abu Sayyaf and not against Muslim Mindanao. The President might also wish to consider giving strenuous assurances that her plans for Muslim Mindanao will be the exact opposite of the nightmare her immediate predecessor sprung on it last year. The President might also wish to consider giving strong assurances that the Moro raids of the 17th and 18th centuries are a thing of the past and will never come to haunt us again. The point is to isolate the Abu Sayyaf, to excise it from the body that is Muslim Mindanao. The point is not to allow it to grow inside that body like a cancer.

Nothing less than an equally tough stance for peace for the rest of the region would do.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

The Left stages a comeback

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

DESPITE the disruptions and the widespread allegations of cheating in the May 14 elections, an event of historic importance emerged from it: the seating of Bayan Muna in the next House of Representatives.

Bayan Muna, a Marxist-oriented party, topped the elections for the party-list system, polling 15 percent of the total votes cast for party-list representatives. Its vote put it well beyond the 2 percent minimum requirement for one House seat. With 15 percent, all three of the party's nominees will be in Congress: Satur Ocampo, a senior leader of the National Democratic Front; Crispin Beltran, chair of the Left-wing Kilusang Mayo Uno; and Liza Masa, chair of Gabriela.

For the first time since 1946, we will have a Marxist party—albeit with parliamentary rather than revolutionary tendencies—in Congress. The election of two party-list representatives in the 1998 polls—Etta Rosales of Akbayan and Rene Magtubo of Sanlakas, both parties of the Left—set the stage for a larger foothold of the Left in Congress. Akbayan won a seat in the May elections, reinforcing the Left's representation in Congress.

Bayan Muna had to wait for nearly half a century for the Left to gain reentry into the legislature. Powerful conservative forces of Philippine society locked out the communists from the parliamentary stream since 1946 when all seven Left-wing representatives from Central Luzon, then the epicenter of agrarian unrest, were booted out of the House by President Manuel Roxas' administration in a stratagem to secure the three-fourths vote needed to amend the Constitution to extend parity rights to Americans in the exploitation of economic resources.

This exclusion was mainly responsible for driving the Communist Party to stage the Huk rebellion, encapsulating the social grievances of the Central Luzon peasantry and the interests of Manila's working class.

The reentry of the Marxist groups into the parliamentary stream came more than a decade after the collapse of communism as a universal, cross-national border social system. Bayan Muna represents a tendency in the Philippine communist movement that has eschewed revolutionary power seizure as a means to change the social order and redistribute wealth more equitably. As such, the reentry of the Left into the parliamentary arena should be a welcome development. It represents the acceptance of our people in a national vote of the need for an alternative agenda that will find expression in the legislature that has been long dominated by family dynasties, agricultural and commercial interests and their surrogates.

There should be no fear of viral infection from socialism in the parliamentary stream. Our political agenda needs a healthy dose of alternative programs for social equity and alleviation of poverty, given that we face the rebellion of the urban poor who exhibited the fury of their grievances on May 1. We need a programmed and ideological approach to poverty alleviation so as to remove the poor from the clutches of false populist leaders like deposed President Joseph Estrada and his cohorts.

Ocampo, Beltran and Masa belong to that category of Marxists whose revolutionary ardor has been cooled partly by the failure of the Communist revolution in this country and by the fact that no Communist party has taken power since the Vietnam War. Most Marxist parties all over the world, except probably Cuba's, have competed in the parliamentary arena to effect social change.

Bayan Muna could be the embryonic stage of a policy-based party system opened up by the party-list concept, despite the halting steps it has traveled.

In opening the parliamentary door to the Marxists, we have in fact done it too far behind Europe where Marxist participation began in the 1930s. The diversion of the European Marxist parties to the parliamentary arena was mainly responsible for the avoidance by Europe of the dictatorship of the proletariat that ruled the former Soviet Union from 1918 to 1990.

I would like to go back to the lockout of the Communist Party from Congress in 1946 to emphasize the importance of the Marxists' reentry into the parliamentary arena. Roxas in 1946 needed the parity amendment so that the country could avail itself of the $620-million war damage payments to rebuild its war-ravaged economy. The US tied this fund to the approval by the Philippine Congress of the parity amendment incorporated in the Bell Trade Act of 1946. Since Roxas did not have the required majorities in Congress to amend the Constitution, his Liberal Party denied seats to three opposition senators and nine congressmen, including seven from the Democratic Alliance. The congressmen came from Central Luzon. Among them was the Huk supremo, Luis Taruc.

They were unseated on false charges of electoral fraud. The DA was an ally of the Nacionalista Party which opposed parity. Roxas lost heavily to Sergio Osmeña in Central Luzon. The DA was composed of Leftists and urban middle-class civil libertarians.

Faced with the secession of the oligarchy led by Roxas in the 1946 elections, and the split of the oligarchy over the collaboration issue, Osmeña forged an alliance with the DA. Historian David Joel Steinberg has suggested that Osmeña's alliance "alienated many uncommitted Filipinos who shared with the oligarchy a deep-seated fear of radical leftist movements," causing him to lose the elections.

In my preliminary MA thesis at Monash University, I wrote: "The unseating of the legislators is politically significant. It marked the exclusion, at a very early stage of independence, of the Filipino Left from the parliamentary process thereby driving it underground. In particular, it locked out from formal representation in the legislature the most numerous and poorest section of Filipino society—the peasantry. From that day onwards until Congress was disbanded in 1972, the largest constituency in the country had stood outside the party system, which denied it the democratic forum for the articulation of its interests."

RP afflicted with 'mego' disease

COMMENTARY

Juan L. Mercado

YOU need proof that this country has long been afflicted with "mego" (mine-eyes-glaze-over) disease?

Look back to Labor Day. That was when a wave of emaciated, mostly often gap-toothed people in rubber slippers—incited by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, JV Ejercito, former Ambassador Ernesto Maceda et al.—slammed against Malacañang's Gate 7. In the process, they pasted a human face on statistics of the desperate destitute, gathering dust in our computer diskettes. We've talked about them since then.

Did we need that footage of the poor's raw anger, stoked by "multiple deprivation," to strip scales from our eyes? Penury in city slums, water-short farms or overfished coastal barangays, relentlessly deepened since the Marcos kleptocracy. Still, eyes would complacently glaze over, even as computers crunched out new numbers on another failure.

Out of every 100,000 live births, for example, 44 Filipina mothers will die. Contrast that to 6 for Singapore. Yet, few protest.

Instead, windbags like Senators Tito Sotto, Tessie Aquino-Oreta and Robert Jaworski drown out complaints by spouting their concern for the needy—not for Jose Velarde and his second envelope.

But the record belies the rhetoric. Congress never budgeted more than a measly one percent for direct poverty alleviation. "You cannot satisfy hunger by painting pictures of rice cakes," the Chinese say.

"Mego" would set in even when damning comparisons surfaced. More Filipino pre-school children die from malnutrition, a World Bank study reveals, than in countries with lower per-capita income like Tanzania, Bangladesh, or Kenya.

Thus, under the Stockholm "20:20 Compact," the Philippines formally committed to spend P20 out of every P100 to meet the urgent needs of the poorest: food, water, medicine, job creation, etc.

The Compact is a reinvention, by 21st-century development planners, of the ancient biblical tithe that ensured sharing. "If there is food left over in the kitchen," old folks often say, "there will be poor people in the street."

But talk is cheap. A study of 30 countries shows actual spending for the poor, under the Compact, falls far short. It is 7.7 percent in the Philippines and 8.5 percent in Brazil, "Human Development Report 2000" reveals. Bilateral donors, on average, allocate 8.3 percent, it says.

Does this welshing stem from lack of political will? Or just *kapalmuks*? When they met President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, fresh from Edsa II, local officials demanded the scrapping of "investment plans" on how the "20 Percent Development Fund" is spent.

Local governments misuse this fund as a mini pork-barrel—for waiting sheds, basketballs, travel tickets, etc. Cebu City bought mostly hardware. The province didn't even bother to draft an investment plan.

Such misuse brazenly withhold this resource from the needy. It turns a "deaf ear to sighs of orphans and drinks the tears of children."

Or are Filipino voters, as Lee Kwan Yew of Singapore ("the good Nazi of Asean") insists, shabbily educated? Can people, sedated on a diet of "Pera O Bayong," make the reasoned choices democracy demands?

Teleprompter reader Noli de Castro tops the senatorial election. In contrast, a brilliant economist of sterling integrity, like Winnie Monsod, or a seasoned legislator like Wigberto Tañada, don't get within spitting distance of the "magic 13" senatorial winners. You wonder.

Yet, Filipinos cobbled together the most sophisticated tools to gauge indigence in this region, says the Asian Development Bank. "The most advanced attempt to define and implement a holistic matrix of poverty ingredients was the Philippines Minimum Basic Needs concept," ADB observes in its report of a nine-country study, "Reducing Poverty." Filipino scientists stitched no less than 33 indicators, in three tiers, for this "valuable community planning tool."

Indeed, the system supplies "detailed data, at the village level.. (and is) the most developed system for targeting," adds the United Nations Development Program in "Poverty Report 2000." "But not enough local governments use it as a planning guide."

So, if we're so smart, then why aren't we rich? We can't plead ignorance. We know what to do if the poor are to be helped—and save our necks. "Social justice is the insurance we take out on our lives." It is as simple as that.

In "Voices of the Poor," a World Bank study of 60,000 needy men and women in 60 nations, a three-pronged strategy is proposed:

- "Promote opportunity." Preferential options must be given to the poor in a growing economic pie
- "Facilitate empowerment" by giving the marginalized a say in decision-making
- "Enhance security" to reduce adverse shock from stay-in-school programs, health care, etc.

This is not easy in a Philippines where political power grows out of the barrel of economic guns. Thus, the rich, like Joseph Ejercito Estrada, dip into tills of agencies like the Social Security System—and justify plunder in the name of the poor.

"The affluent do not speak of their wealth and income as a divine right," Harvard University's John Kenneth Gailbraith notes. "Instead they speak as benign servitors of the common good."

But as the Labor Day riots showed, the time for talk is over. By their ostentatious lifestyles, far too many deny that "we are our brother's keepers."

There is much to be said for reviving the tithe for the needy. The late National Scientist Dioscoro Umali put it very well: "The right of a poor man to a bowl of rice begins where the right of the rich man to a secret bank account ends."

That was in 1979. Deposits in Marcos "Jane Saunder's" Swiss bank deposits had started to swell. Jose Velarde and Kelvin Garcia accounts were three decades down the road.

A country that breaks out of tunnel vision can back off from the precipice. If that is what the Erap trial for plunder will do, the *mahirap* will, finally, be well served.

Protection of historic views

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN I arrived in Washington, D.C. two weeks ago, some friends literally sighed as they consoled me over missing the sight of the cherry blossoms in full bloom a month earlier. Being a polite Pinoy in a foreign country, I sighed too, keeping my relief to myself for I am allergic to pollen.

Despite this tourist setback, I was still encouraged to visit the Mall and have one last look at it before its balance and serenity are damaged by a hideous (translation: modern) World War II memorial which is soon to rise on this area immortalized in postcards and tourist snapshots. Despite a vigorous campaign by individuals and groups keen on historic preservation, the majority of the US Congress (only four opposed) voted to approve the erection of this modern monument on the Mall, which is basically a huge plot of land tastefully filled with classical architectural forms and museum buildings making up the various branches of the Smithsonian Institution.

As I mentioned in my columns last week on Pearl Harbor, the veterans of the Pacific War are dwindling and they want people to remember Corregidor and the Bataan Death March. While nobody questions the need for a World War II Memorial, the issue being debated was its location. A World War II memorial is kind of late following the Vietnam Memorial in the Mall, or even a Holocaust museum somewhere else in the US capital, but then these other memorials do not violate the field of vision between the US Congress building atop the hill down to the Lincoln memorial.

The Mall is an open space with strategically placed monuments and buildings that inspire harmony and calm. If you stand on the hill by the US Congress and look down, your vision is guided toward a white obelisk reaching toward the sky. Like a compass point, the Washington monument stands in the middle of the Mall, a tribute to the man who is considered as the father of the United States.

Our own Rizal monument in the Luneta also has an obelisk and is the zero-point from which all geographic measurements around the archipelago are plotted. Look at road signs anywhere in the archipelago and you know how far you are from the Rizal monument.

In Washington, the visitor can see in a straight line from the Capitol to the obelisk up to a squat square monument at the end of a reflecting pool that houses the famous oversized statue of Abraham Lincoln. To the left of all these is a circular structure that houses the Thomas Jefferson memorial. These three men and their ideas and ideals are all visually reduced to simple, geometric forms: obelisk, square and circle symbolize more than words can express.

The Mall in Washington, D.C. is one of those places that has been planned so well that you cannot add or subtract anything without disturbing the equilibrium. As I read some of the articles for and against the proposed World War II Memorial, I realized how much longer we have to progress in the war of historical conservation in the Philippines. Most of the high-profile battles of conservation societies and the National Historical Institute had something to do with the preservation of old or historic structures. This means saving them from the wreckers or the well-intentioned renovation and beautification projects. The fight over the Mall in Washington widened my horizons because historic preservation sometimes means protecting a view or a field of vision.

In the Philippines today, I think there are two views that are most endangered and Filipinos do not even realize that they are part of their patrimony. First is the view of Manila Bay from Roxas Boulevard and the Cavite Coastal Road. Then there is the view of Taal Lake and Volcano from the Tagaytay ridge. How many postcards are printed and sent each year showing the famous Manila Bay sunset shot from Roxas Boulevard? Within my lifetime, I have seen a brick wall built and torn down on the bayview. I have seen land reclaimed from the sea, pushing the view away from the boulevard. Of course, the Quirino Grandstand, the US Embassy, the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex, the Toyota showroom and a shopping mall at the junction of the Coastal Road and Roxas Boulevard are familiar landmarks that make many young people forget that there was once a view of the bay that was enjoyed from pre-colonial times to the Spanish, American and Japanese colonial periods. This view was free, and maybe this explains why it has slowly been obliterated. By the time we notice, it will be gone unless a new seaside road is built for our enjoyment.

Check through the classified ads under real estate to see how the prices of Tagaytay property goes up depending on the view. Drive along the ridge today and you will have a hard time looking for the postcard views. The ridge is filled with private homes and business establishments. While it is too late to do something now, can't we have a public viewing deck like the one on the zigzag road to Baguio?

Maria Cristina is our national waterfalls, but do you know that it can only be seen by appointment? Preservation should be expanded from maintaining historic structures and sites to protecting views that are the patrimony of every Filipino.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Mimics mine Peruvian politics

FEATURE

Jude Webber

LIMA—With a baddie ex-spy chief on the run from the law and squabbling presidential candidates ducking charges of sex, drugs, corruption and even insanity, Peru's Funnies do not have far to go for inspiration. The country's most popular mimics, with three shows on radio and television a day, mine the apparently bottomless comic potential of Peruvian politics with scathing satire.

"By joking, we tell the truth with no taboos," said Hernan Vidaurre, a former beer salesman and rickshaw taxi driver now known to Peruvians as the uncannily accurate impersonator of former president and current candidate Alan Garcia. Vidaurre has turned the charismatic ex-president with the dazzling toothpaste commercial grin into "Galan Garcia" (gallant Garcia), "because he's tall, he's a matinee idol."

Fernando Armas, who mimicked the now disgraced and ousted President Alberto Fujimori for 10 years, has focused on Alejandro Toledo, the man tipped to be the next president after a runoff vote on June 3.

Playing on the pride the candidate of Andean Indian descent displays in being a "Cholo"—as Peruvians of mixed race ancestry are called—Armas has christened him "Choledo," a nickname that has stuck like glue.

Vidaurre, Armas and veteran comic Guillermo Rossini make up the crew of "Los Chistosos" (The Funnies), who came to fame as witty critics of Fujimori, Peru's president from 1990-2000. Their live hour-long afternoon show on RPP radio is a national institution. After that, they speed to the studios of Panamericana Television to record comic voiceovers of news clips of the day for the first of their two nightly shows.

They never lack material: Peruvian politics appears to specialize in evil plots, sleaze and soap-opera scenarios. "We're a humorous newscast," Efrain Aguilar, their portly, chuckling television producer, told Reuters during an interview with the trio as they slipped in and out of character. "We use the real people who make the political news, we put them on the screen with a funny impersonation and we have a little laugh about what's happening in politics—but many times, truth is far better than fiction."

Take, for example, last year's downfall of Fujimori, after he had led sniffer dogs on a Rambo-style chase for his Machiavellian spymaster Vladimiro Montesinos, a man who had diamond watches and escape tunnels under his bathtub and who sparked the biggest corruption storm in Peruvian history. Both men fled: Montesinos by yacht to the Caribbean, with a lengthening list of criminal charges in his wake; Fujimori to Tokyo, where it turned out he had been Japanese all along.

But even with the men who manipulated Peru's courts, Congress, media and military for a decade off the scene, the two presidential candidates have delivered rich drama.

Toledo faces charges of refusing to recognize a 13-year-old girl as his daughter and testing positive for cocaine in 1998, after reportedly being seen in a string of sleazy Lima hotels with three women. He says he was kidnapped and drugged.

Garcia has made a staggering comeback after the economic chaos of a 1985-90 government even he admits made big mistakes and charges, which he denies, that he took $1 million in bribes while in office. He has lately defended himself as "perfectly sane and lucid" amid charges he suffered manic depression.

Many Peruvians are distinctly unimpressed by both men and around a third of voters say they plan to spoil their ballots or leave them blank because neither deserves to win.

The problems for the next president are no laughing matter: near-zero growth, high unemployment and more than half the Andean nation's 26 million people in poverty, for starters.

But psychologists and others say The Funnies, as well as being in tune with the Peruvian zeitgeist, have tapped into a deep-seated human urge to laugh at misfortune rather than cry. "A sense of humor is as vital for living in Peru as water to drink," said Nicolas Yerovi, editor of two satirical magazines, calling The Funnies "excellent parodists."

"They are geniuses," said psychologist Max Hernandez, adding that they were "more serious than the candidates—and say more or less the same thing."

Standing relaxed before the microphones in the television studio, the jaunty trio put on their headphones and look over at a television set in the corner, where the clips waiting for their alternative soundtrack are ready to roll.

Then they are off. "There's no script—the script is the news," said Aguilar.

Vidaurre's rapid-fire, sing-song style is pure Garcia; he even gesticulates as he mimics.

Armas, who counts actor and mimic Robin Williams among his idols, adopts Toledo's drawling delivery, complete with his catchphrases and habit of shaking his head as he speaks.

"We seize on any errors politicians make...we popularize their words," Rossini said, adding politics provided "never-ending material."

The result can be hilarious when Peruvians phone in to quiz the "candidates." Choledo spluttered and hesitated after one such unexpected call from Toledo's alleged daughter Zarai.

Psychologist Jorge Bruce hailed the trio's "political intuition" and said Peruvians delighted at how they had poked fun at Fujimori in a regime that otherwise silenced dissent. "There was a time when they were the only way of expressing any criticism," he said. "They used humor to mock...People have affection for them, they're grateful."

Armas said the trio "use humor to get across what the candidates are proposing—things some people don't see a lot because they find the news too square and boring."

But it is not just the public who are fans. The candidates and politicians parodied have been good sports—and even Fujimori allowed himself to be interviewed by his "alter ego."

Interim President Valentin Paniagua—alias "Chaparron," which loosely translates as "short, friendly, chubby fellow"—is such a fan of The Funnies he invited them to the palace.

Zarai spoke for many when she concluded: "You are a source of happiness and tranquility for the country. Don't stop—you're the only people who entertain us with our problems." *Reuters*

THEY SAID

Dashed hope

"Mindanao has long been called as the Land of Broken Promises. (Former President) Estrada sweet-talked the people and many believed him, so when he was taken away to jail, they thought that they lost their only hope to be uplifted from poverty."

—Felix Irag, secretary general of the Kilusang Mayo Uno in Southern Mindanao

Connectivity

"We have good products here, but we have to stitch it for connectivity. We need to grow with and from each other."

—Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon told German investors

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LETTERS

Convenient excuse

ON APRIL 27, 2000, I wrote an article, titled "Sense in misery," which was published in a major daily. I touched on two important points: the clamor for the inclusion of independent investigators in the ongoing probe of the Air Philippines crash near Davao and the need to create a government agency similar to the US National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB) to ensure impartial investigation of accidents. For whatever reason, they were ignored. The government simply created an Independent Investigation Committee to investigate the crash.

The committee concluded that the probable cause was the flight crew's loss of situational awareness which resulted in a controlled flight into terrain and failure to adhere to the instrument approach procedures of the airport, flying visually in an instrument flying condition. All the rest were merely contributory factors.

To pilots, the frequency of "pilot error" findings are a source of constant concern and exasperation. Could the truth ever emerge from such investigations? Perhaps, but among the fatal accidents in our country, "pilot error" looks like only a most convenient excuse; not once was probable cause attributed to specific areas of responsibility, like poor maintenance, lack of airport facilities, poorly trained personnel, or even a defective aircraft.

How safe really is the B737-200? In a magazine article, the NTSB declared that all is not well as far as the B737 rudders are concerned. More than 3,000 B737s are flying with the appalling distinction of being the only jet airliner in service with a fault to cause them to crash. In fact, the NTSB article detailed 112 "rudder events" on 737s in the past 20 years. It said there were two air accidents worth mentioning: United B737-200 in Colorado Springs Airport (1991), as well as USAir jet in Pittsburgh Airport (1994). Both flights were making landing approaches close to the ground and at speeds too slow to give pilots effective aileron inputs or other procedures for recovering control of the aircraft and both rolled sharply to one side and dived at a steep angle, killing all passengers aboard.

I strongly believe that whatever happened to Air Philippines Flight 541, where all 131 passengers and crew died, could not have been caused by "pilot error." The dissenting opinion of one of the committee members speaks for itself: ". . . said conclusions were not supported by evidence." The mysterious black box that should have revealed all the secrets of the flight did not do so. How then could the committee have arrived at such wholesale determination? That aircraft could very well be one of the defective B737s. But we will no longer know for sure now.

This highlights even more my second point: the need for an independent Air Safety Board. Otherwise, we will have to deal endlessly with ad hoc committees, agencies or airline companies investigating their own failures, and a jumbled wreck of incompletely verified conclusions once an accident happens again. The Airline Pilots Association again fully understands it can never diminish the pain and sorrow of losing a loved one. We are simply trying to reinject sense in the face of such incomprehensible misery.—**SOTICO T. LLOREN, president, Airline Pilots Association of the Philippines, Andrews Avenue, Pasay City 1300**

Cleanup needed at Comelec

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was reported to be gloating over the success of the elections, saying "in general it was peaceful, fair and free..."

I do not call it peaceful when scores of people have been murdered. I can't call it fair when there are reports of rampant cheating all over the country. And I can't say that it was free when people were told whom to vote for in return for cash and when armed goons were intimidating the voters. So, whatever the outcome of the elections, we can't be sure that it reflects the will of the majority.

These irregularities in our electoral process happen again and again every three years. It is about time we put an end to them. The Department of Justice should be responsible for enforcing the existing laws against election fraud.

It behooves the President to clean up the Commission on Elections. The officials should be elected, not appointed. Better yet, the office should be abolished altogether. It has done a disservice to the country and its electorate. It has been rendered inutile with all the wrangling from within, funds allegedly unaccounted for and the plain ineptitude of those running it.

I disagree with the President when she told foreign investors that all is well in this country on the assumption that her administration is "very much in control." How can it be, when there is a wide gap between the rich and the poor? When discontent and disenchantment with the leadership still prevail in some sectors? And when those public officials charged with criminal offenses are still out and about doing what they normally do, which is raising Cain in our society?

These issues should be addressed and prioritized and only then can we have healing, genuine peace and stability in this land.—**MILAGROS KLEIST, 70 F Binictican Drive, Subic Bay Freeport, Olongapo City**

House arrest for political prisoner

I CAN no longer contain the anger in my heart. My son is growing up without a father by his side. Because of the flaw in our justice system, my husband has been suffering for over 12 years now for a crime he did not commit.

Now we suffer further injustice by the government's gratification of a criminal, while political prisoners like my husband, suffer in silence.

If President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will give in to the caprices of Joseph Estrada to be placed under house arrest, I will demand the same detention conditions for my husband, Donato Continente.

There is no graver insult to us wives of political prisoners than to see a criminal boss placed in luxurious conditions of house arrest while our husbands suffer the daily indignity of Philippine prisons.

My husband is not a criminal. Donato was only convicted to satisfy the United States' hunger for revenge over the death of one of its officers. Estrada, on the other hand, has yet to be meted out the punishment due him. He is a known human rights violator and plunderer.

To put Estrada under house arrest is tantamount to letting him enjoy the luxuries of a free man. This is not only an insult to me and to the families of political prisoners but also a slap on the face for the millions who suffered under his administration.

If the reasons for putting Estrada under house arrest are really based on respect for persons or humanitarian considerations, then I challenge the Macapagal administration to free my husband together with all political prisoners and initiate steps to make our jails a "more humane place," like the house on Polk Street.

If the Macapagal administration cannot free my husband, then it should put him under house arrest now.—**IMELDA TENDENCIA-CONTINENTE, coordinator for political prisoners, National Capital Region, Karapatan-Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights, 23-D Mabuhay St., Central District, Diliman, Quezon City**

Firm action of militant principal

IN 1994, 10 of us were sent to South Africa and Mozambique to serve as observers and help ensure clean, free and honest elections. We were UN experts officially sent by the Philippines upon the nomination of the National Movement for Free Elections. I cried at the sight of people savoring their freedom and power to choose their leaders, like one invalid in a stretcher who sweated with every movement he made to be able to cast his vote.

Since then, I have been volunteering my legal services every election to the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting in Hulo, Mandaluyong City, where I now live. The tireless dedication of the PPCRV and Namfrel volunteers and the teachers serving in my area of responsibility has continuously impressed me. However, I found militancy to be a must. Overzealous political followers need to be dealt with firmly.

Last May 14, I was particularly impressed by the militancy of the Hulo Elementary School principal, Juanita P. Valle. After I called her attention at about 8 a.m. to the advancing children and adults distributing sample ballots and other campaign materials close to the school entrance, she immediately went out of her office and dealt with them. Thereafter, she diplomatically asked that the political tents and campaign vehicles be moved out of the school grounds by the owners themselves; something her predecessor tried but failed to accomplish.

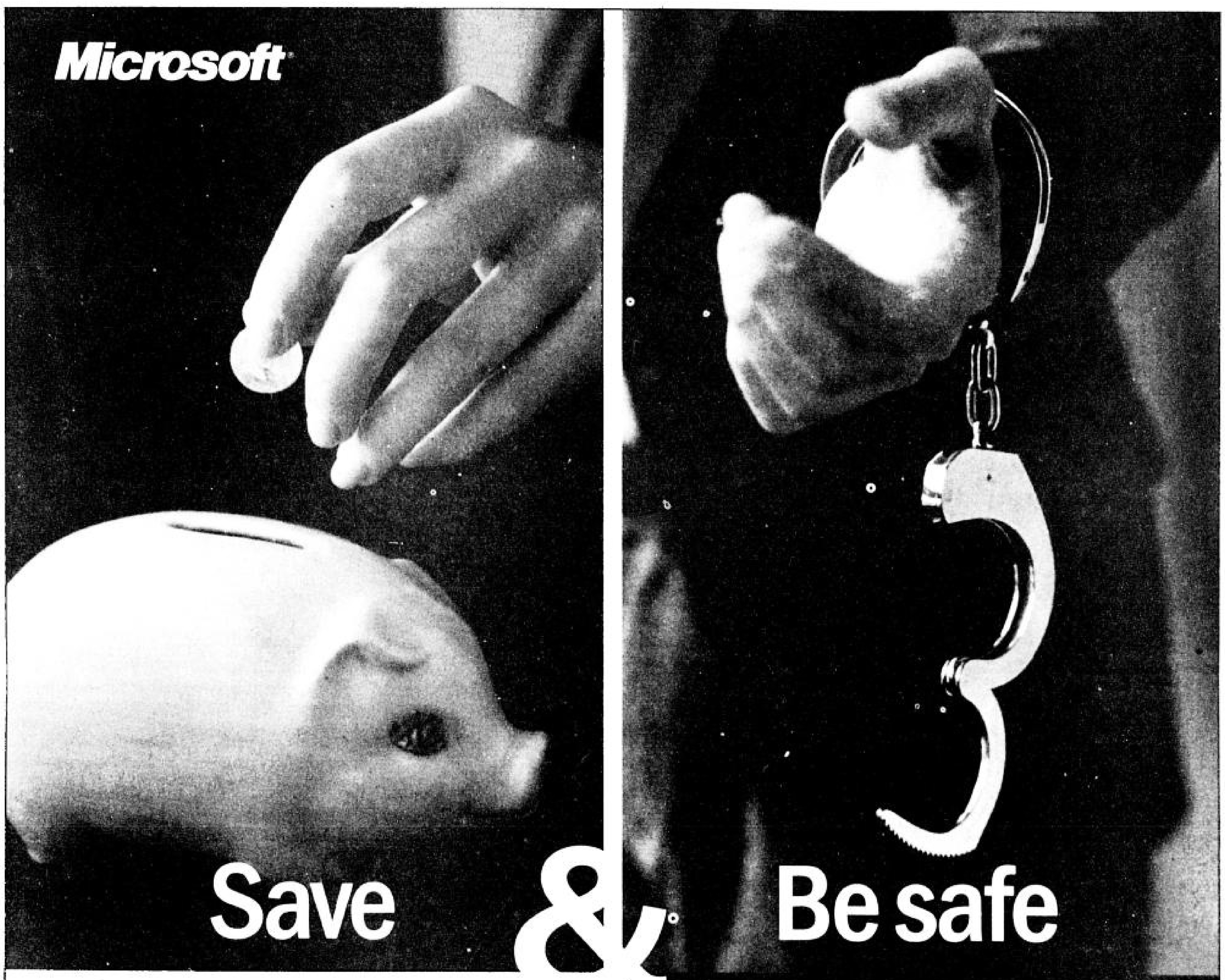
We breathed the air of better election discipline, thanks to her.—**TERESITA D. CASTILLON-LORA, NLRC-NCR North, Banawe Street, Quezon City**

CHED turning into a mess

THE COMMISSION on Higher Education was established seven years ago to ensure and protect academic freedom and promote its exercise and observance for continuing intellectual growth, the advancement of learning and research, the development of responsible and effective leaders, the development of high-level and middle-level professionals, and the enrichment of our historical and cultural heritage.

Noble objectives indeed! But during the recent Fifth Higher Education Congress at the Midtown Hotel, I experienced the biggest disappointment of my life. Executive Director Roger Perez was conspicuously absent. He was reported to be on a junket to China, after reported visits to London and Qatar! AFS Director Teresita Baterina alone, assisted by one employee, took charge of registering hundreds of delegates. Food was reserved for half the number of paying registrants. The speeches were uninspiring. It was a lowly assembly of higher education people nationwide. Was Chair Ester Garcia's face red!

Perhaps, Congress and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should give their special attention to the mess that is the CHED together with the reported elections fiasco.—**JOCELYN SAGUN, Quezon City**



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Wahid allies go on rampage anew

SURABAYA, Indonesia—Thousands of fanatical followers of embattled President Abdurrahman Wahid went on the rampage for a second day, burning and attacking a church, a mosque and buildings belonging to his political rivals, police said yesterday.

Police fired warning shots to disperse angry mobs in Wahid's home province of East Java, where he is revered as an Islamic holy man.

The violence raged just 24 hours before parliament is expected to demand that the head of state be impeached for corruption and incompetence.

The latest attacks flared despite a security crackdown by Wahid on Monday.

In sign that he is increasingly becoming desperate in his bid to stay in office, Wahid's security chief said the president had planned to declare a state of emergency and dissolve parliament on Monday.

But he abandoned the move at the last minute after it was vehemently opposed by Cabinet ministers and generals who feared it would trigger massive bloodshed, according to a report in the Kompas newspaper.

For weeks, Wahid—Indonesia's first democratically chosen head of state in four decades—had steadfastly denied that he had been planning to launch a preemptive strike against legislators and impose emergency rule.

In an interview published in Kompas, security minister Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said Wahid had been set on issuing an emergency decree at noon on Monday to block lawmakers from moving against him.

"The president was convinced that it was the only way to rescue this nation from constitutional abuse by the legislative members, which threatens democratic life," Yudhoyono said.

After a series of hurried meetings, he opted instead to order Yudhoyono to head a security crackdown.

Parliament is scheduled to meet Wednesday to request Indonesia's highest legislative body, the People's Consultative Assembly, to impeach Wahid over alleged involvement in two multimillion-dollar financial scandals.

Lawmakers said yesterday they will push ahead with the campaign to remove Wahid despite the violence and an announcement Monday by Attorney General Marzuki Darusman—a close associate of the president's—that prosecutors had formally cleared him of any wrongdoing.

Police have said since last year that there was no evidence of criminal actions by the president, and in early May prosecutors announced he had not benefited financially from either scheme.

Parliamentary speaker Akbar Tandjung said the attorney general's statement would not affect the impeachment process.

"Parliament's demands for a special session of (the People's Consultative Assembly) is not only because of the two affairs, but also because of the president's performance, attitude and policies," he said.

"The attorney general has focused on the legal aspect while parliament is focussing on the political aspect of Wahid's rule," said Alvin Lie, another lawmaker.

About 40 Army Cadillac Gage Commando armored vehicles were deployed around parliament and the nearby Jakarta Convention Center where heads of state of the G-15 group of developing nations were to meet Wednesday.

Meanwhile, security forces fired warning shots when hundreds of people protested outside a police stations after four men were arrested for setting fire to a church in the town of Pasuruan on Tuesday. Christians are a minority in mainly Muslim Indonesia and churches are often attacked during times of civil unrest.

On Monday, an angry mob burned a mosque belonging to an Islamic grouping that rivals Wahid's own religious organization. In Indonesia's second-largest city of Surabaya, some 700 kilometers (440 miles) east of Jakarta, about 1,000 Wahid supporters burned tires and blocked roads demanding lawmakers drop their plan to impeach him. Hundreds of armed police and soldiers fired warning shots to disperse the crowd. *AP*

A WAHID supporter displaying his adulation during a rally in Jakarta May 29. REUTERS

Japan deported 50,000

TOKYO—Japan deported a total of 51,459 foreigners in 2000 for violating immigration laws, with more than 85 percent of them found working without proper visas, the justice minister said yesterday.

The total number of deportees fell by 3,708 from 1999, Justice Minister Mayumi Moriyama told a news conference.

The drop stemmed from the February 2000 revision in the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Law as well as a prolonged economic slump, the ministry's immigration bureau official Yukitsugu Fukuda said.

The number of deported illegal workers totaled 44,190, down by 2,068 from the previous year.

About one-quarter, or 11,336 people, came from South Korea, followed by 8,132 from China, excluding those from Hong Kong. Filipinos accounted for the third largest group numbering 7,420, and Thais were fourth at 3,902 people. *AFP*

RETURN TO SENDER REUTERS

The damaged US Navy EP-3 electronic reconnaissance plane is parked at Lingshui base on China's Hainan Island, April 3, in this file photo released by China's Xinhua news agency. China and the United States have struck a deal on the return of the crippled plane to end a bitter wrangle between the two nations, US and Chinese officials said on Monday.

Mother Teresa beatification seen this year

CALCUTTA, India—The late Mother Teresa could be beatified by the Pope before the end of the year, the Archbishop of Calcuta Henry D'Souza said yesterday.

The archbishop, who is part of a papal inquiry regarding Mother Teresa's possible elevation to Roman Catholic sainthood, said the beatification process might be speeded up as she was "an extraordinary person."

"The diocesan inquiry into the life, virtues and reputation of the sanctity of the servant of God, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, is complete to place her on the path to sainthood," D'Souza said.

The inquiry will be formally concluded at a ceremony in Calcutta's St Mary's Church on Aug. 15, when its findings will be forwarded to the congregation for the causes of saints in the Vatican.

"The next step is to beatify her and I hope it will take a few months more," the archbishop said.

Mother Teresa, who set up her Missionaries of Charity order here in 1950, died in 1997 at the age of 87, after a life that has been held up as a model of Christian service.

Her work among the poor and dying in Calcutta earned her the title "Saint of the Gutters," and her selfless devotion to the ailing and suffering around the world won her a Nobel prize and millions of admirers.

Sister Lynn of the Missionaries of Charity said the panel appointed by Pope John Paul II as a part of the canonizaton process had collected more then 100 testimonies to miracles involving Mother Teresa.

"Everyday, Mother House is receiving calls from various parts of the world about the acts of Mother's miracles," she said. "But we have taken a oath of secrecy. We cannot disclose the details."

"We have conclusive proof of miracles and these will be disclosed on the day of the concluding ceremony at St Mary's Church," she added. *AFP*

Israel, Palestinians to hold security talks

JERUSALEM—Israel and the Palestinians were to attend US-mediated security talks on Tuesday in a sign that a new, enhanced American effort to end eight months of violence was making progress.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat agreed to send representatives to the US-hosted meetings after a second round of talks on Monday with new US Middle East envoy William Burns. The envoy later met Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Senior Israeli and Palestinians officials said a security meeting—the first since late April—would be held on Tuesday. An Israeli official said the meeting would be the first of two, with the second taking place on Wednesday.

The two sides have held security talks from time to time since the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation erupted in September but they have failed to end the violence.

Burns, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, was trying to convince the sides to adopt the recommendations of an international committee, led by former US Senator George Mitchell, that looked into the violence.

Although the sides agreed to hold security talks on ending the fighting that erupted after peace talks stalled, the US mediation efforts yielded no immediate breakthrough.

In Washington, Richard Roth, acting assistant secretary for Near Eastern affairs, said the United States supported Israeli-Palestinian security talks.

"We think that any effort to bring down the violence would be positive, including a meeting of the responsible security officials from both sides," he said in a telephone interview.

A senior Israeli official said Tuesday's meeting would deal with violence in the West Bank and Wednesday's would focus on Gaza Strip fighting. Israel occupied both areas—which Palestinians want for a state—in the 1967 Middle East war.

Wary of getting caught up in the Middle East quagmire, US President George W. Bush has stayed on the sidelines of the conflict after his predecessor, Bill Clinton, failed to clinch a peace deal despite years of personal involvement. *Reuters*

Taliban get tough on women

ISLAMABAD—Afghanistan's Taliban regime has tightened restrictions for women with a new edict against close-fitted burqas, the full-body veil women are required to wear, a report said Tuesday.

Women in the Islamic militia's southern stronghold of Kandahar have been ordered to cover their bodies with a loose burqa so their curves are not revealed, the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said.

Religious police squads had been asked to implement the order, it said.

Pakistan-based AIP said the edict was prompted by reports that Afghan women were wearing figure-hugging veils like those sometimes used in neighboring Pakistan and other Islamic countries.

The religious police on Monday also burnt 43,200 photographs of women, declaring them un-Islamic, it said.

The Taliban have imposed a unique brand of fundamentalist Islamic law in Afghanistan.

Women most cover themselves from head to toe in public, are denied access to public education and cannot work outside their homes except in the health sector. *AFP*

KALEJS

Past catches up with Nazi war crimes suspect

SYDNEY—Nazi war crimes suspect Konrad Kalejs lived in relative peace for almost 30 years before his wartime past caught up with him.

To his friends and neighbors in Melbourne, Kalejs appeared to be a quiet old man, but to Nazi hunters he was a senior member of a death squad that killed thousands of Jews during World War II.

Kalejs, now facing extradition back to his native Latvia at the age of 87, was born on 26 June 1913, in Riga.

He became a cadet in the Latvian Army Academy at 22 and four years later became a lieutenant in the Latvian Army.

When the Soviet Army overran Latvia in 1940, Kalejs joined the Red Army but a year later had deserted for a pro-Nazi force called the Latvian Auxiliary Security Police, when the German Army swept the Russians out.

The unit was also known as the Arajs Kommando after its leader Viktors Arajs, who was convicted by a German court in 1979 and sentenced to life imprisonment.

According to the US Justice Department, for three years from July 1941, Kalejs was a company commander and first lieutenant in the Arajs Kommando which was recruited by the SS Einsatzgruppe or, in Latvia, the Einsatzkommando.

The SS relied on bands of collaborators such as the Arajs Kommando, according to Dr Raul Hilberg, a renowned Holocaust scholar and professor of political science at the University of Vermont.

As company commander, Kalejs would have been one of six or seven officers below Arajs and would have had at least 100 men under his command.

Dr. Hilberg told the US authorities that according to German documents, the Einsatzkommando working with the Arajs Kommando and other groups murdered 29,000 people, nine-tenths of them Jewish, before August 1941.

And a few months later, in order to make room in Riga's Jewish ghetto for the thousands shipped out of Germany, another 27,800 Jews were shot in the woods near Riga in the space of three days. *AFP*

Canada veers toward legalizing marijuana

By Tom Cohen

TORONTO—The Friendly Stranger used to be up a narrow stairway in a back room, a crowded little shop offering water pipes, T-shirts and other products of the cannabis—or marijuana—culture.

Now proprietor Robin Ellins has a prominent storefront on busy Queen Street and plenty of room to display everything from hempseed oil and chips to a full line of hemp clothing and elaborate smoking accessories.

The transformation from hidden emporium to thriving commercial venture is part of Canada's slow but clear shift toward decriminalizing marijuana.

Justice Minister Anne McLellan says the issue should be studied, and a new Parliament committee on drug matters will look at decriminalization. Conservative Party leader Joe Clark is urging the elimination of criminal penalties for possessing a small amount of pot.

"It's unjust to see someone, because of one decision one night in their youth, carry the stigma—to be barred from studying medicine, law, architecture or other fields where a criminal record could present an obstacle," Clark said last week.

The government has proposed expanding medicinal use of marijuana, and the Canadian Medical Association Journal recently supported full decriminalization. Canada's Supreme Court will consider a case this year that contends criminal charges for the personal use of marijuana violate constitutional rights.

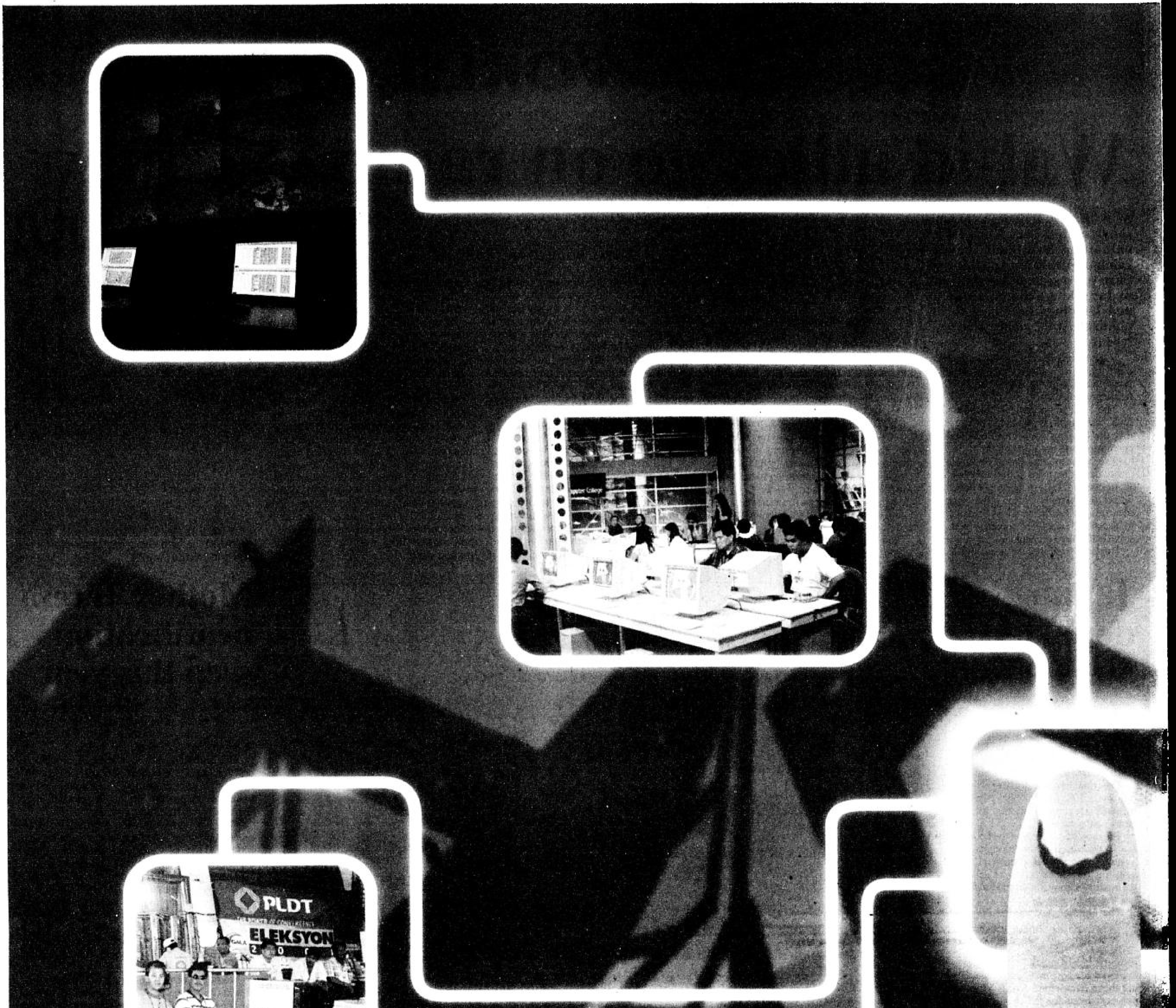
Making possession and use of small amounts of marijuana a civil offense—akin to a traffic fine—instead of a criminal violation would move Canadian policy closer to attitudes in The Netherlands and away from the United States, its neighbor and biggest trade partner.

That worries US anti-drug activists like Robert Maginnis of the Family Research Council. "It will have a residual effect in this country of depressing prices and making marijuana more available," he said.

He also knows a shift by Canada would boost the arguments of American advocates for easing US drug laws. "We find our allies are piling up on us and making it more difficult" to fight drug use, Maginnis said.

Joseph A. Califano Jr., president of the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, is skeptical about that.

Califano, a former US secretary of health and human services, said increasing medical evidence on the harm caused by marijuana makes it unlikely that a change in Canadian law will affect US policy. "I don't think it means much," he said. *AP*



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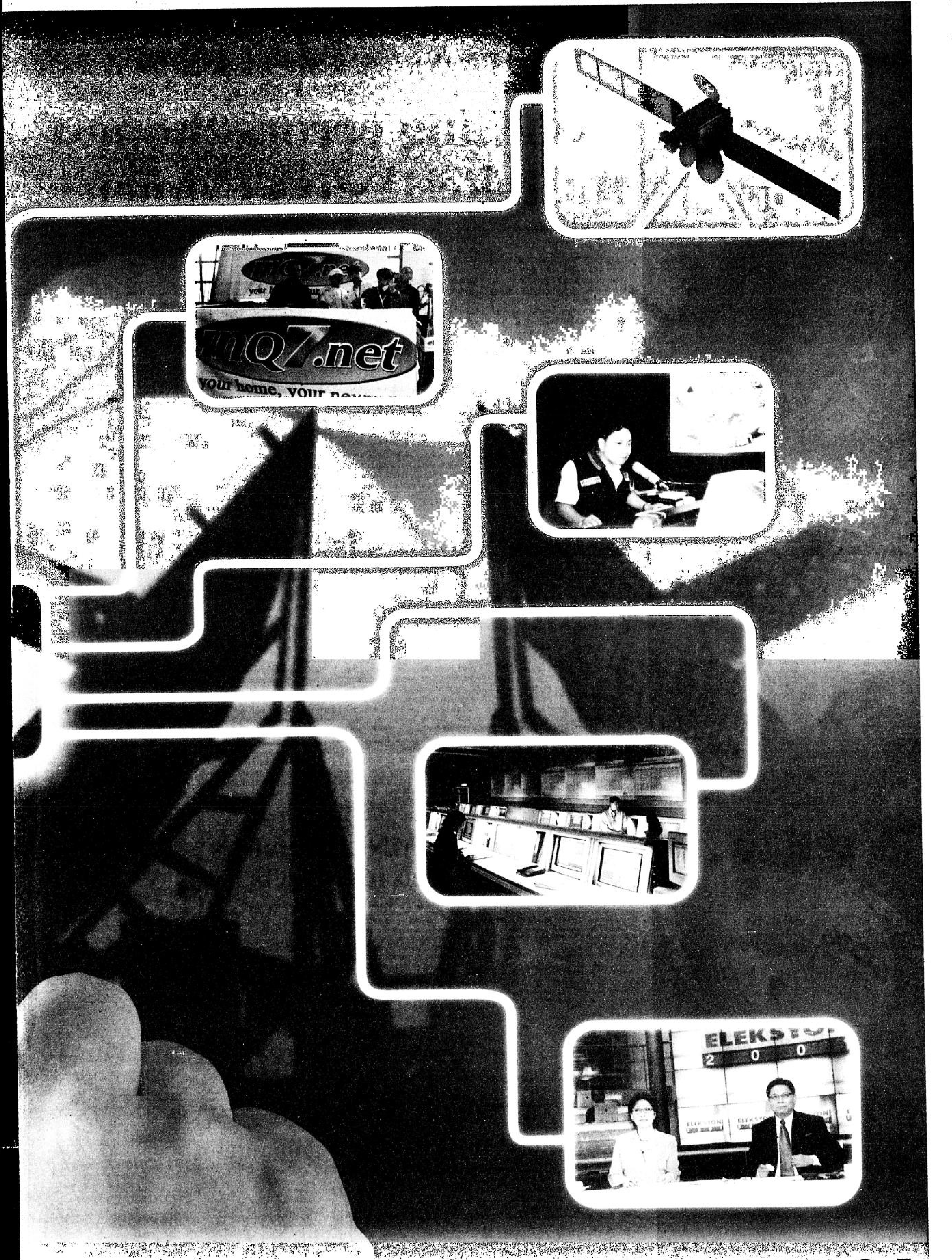
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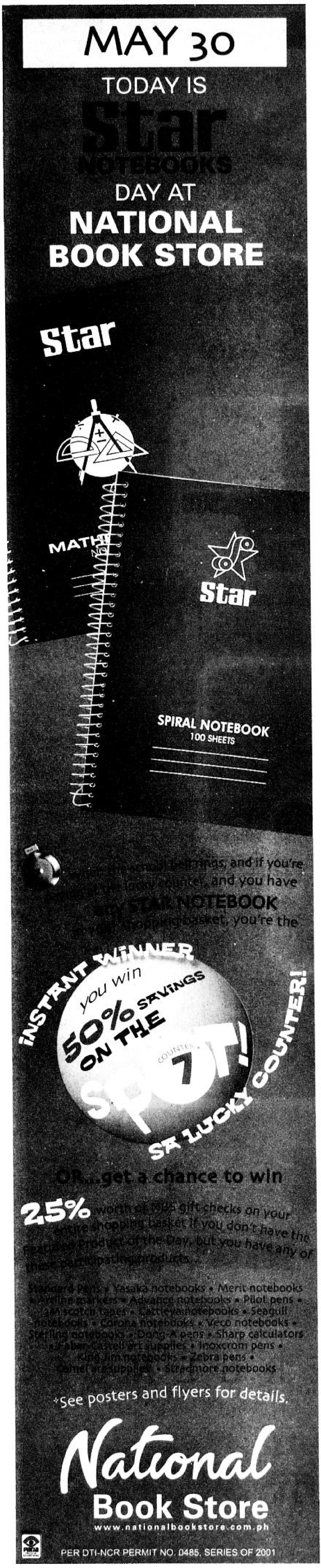
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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0485, SERIES OF 2001

Counting errors 'honest mistakes,' says Comelec

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Election officials in Iloilo said errors in the tabulation of votes discovered by the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) in two towns in Iloilo province were caused by "honest mistakes attributed to fatigue."

Lawyer Victor Gaborne, Commission on Elections acting provincial supervisor denied in a report to Comelec Commissioner Ralph Lantion last May 28 the existence of *dagdag-bawas* (vote padding and shaving) scheme in the province.

He said errors committed by the members of the Municipal Board of Canvassers (MBC) in these towns were "honest mistakes."

Gaborne thanked the Namfrel for spotting the errors although he said that the poll-watch group could have brought the matter first to the Provincial Board of Canvassers (PBC) and not to the Comelec head office in Manila and to media.

In a letter to Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo last May 20, Namfrel chief Jose Concepcion cited cases in the towns of Estancia and Guimbal as examples of how erroneous tabulations affected votes for certain candidates in the May 14 elections.

The Namfrel reportedly wanted Comelec officials in Iloilo investigated for the discrepancies.

In Estancia, almost all senatorial candidates suffered from errors in computations. In Guimbal, People Power Coalition senatorial candidate Manuel Villar allegedly lost some 3,949 votes.

Daniel Badilla, MBC chair in Estancia, explained that the tabulator, Bernadette Barrios, erred in computing the grand total of votes.

Instead of adding all five sub-totals of the summary of votes (SOV) to get the grand total, he said, Barrios left out the fifth sub-total and instead tabulated twice the fourth sub-total.

He said the discrepancy happened because the numerous forms and pages of the SOVs got the MBC members confused.

All senatorial candidates, except Eddie Gil (Independent), who got one vote, suffered errors in their scores in Estancia.

"It was an honest mistake on our part due to human frailties and limitations, and there was no deliberate and vicious intent to engage in fraud and make a mockery of the electoral process," said Badilla.

Renaliza Jacaba, MBC chair in Guimbal, said the errors in the computation of Villar's votes was a result of sleepless nights and fatigue from continuous canvassing on the part of the canvassers who were at the same time eager to submit the Certificate of Canvass (COC) to the PBC promptly.

Jacaba said only two of the four sub-totals were computed by the tabulator. The error was corrected when it reached the PBC.

She said what happened was an honest mistake, adding that the elections conducted in Guimbal was peaceful and orderly.

Prosecutor Irene Panigbatan, a PBC member, said the "manifest errors" in the towns were corrected when they reached the PBC, "motu proprio or upon petition of interested parties."

The PBC is mandated by law to correct errors in the SOV and COC from the municipal level.

Panigbatan said the errors were referred to the review committee created by the PBC and Badilla and Jacaba were called over to enter the corrections.

Lawyer Tomas Valera, provincial election supervisor, admitted that errors had occurred because some MBC members, pressed for time, failed to review the computations.

He said the errors were committed without malice, and were not a part of a scheme to shave off votes from certain candidates.

Gaborne was named acting provincial election supervisor on May 14 after Valera was transferred to Iloilo City because his relative, Pablito Araneta, was running for vice governor under Reporma. Araneta was defeated by Roberto Armada of the Lakas-NUCD.

In Ilocos, politics is 'all in the family'

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—Political clans in Ilocos Norte will soon realize that a thin line separates family affair and political conduct.

Come June 30 for example, brothers, father and daughter, a brother-in-law or a nephew, who may have lived under one roof at one point, will find another home in the *munisipyo* (town hall).

The just-concluded elections are also about the rise to power of political dynasties aside from the established clans of the Marcoses, Naluptas and the Fariñases.

After being molded in politics by his elder brother and former Pagudpud Mayor Reynolan Sales, Marlon Sales is taking after his brother's footsteps by becoming the town's new mayor. Marlon began his political career as a councilor.

Still, big brother Reynolan is not far behind. He is not just a buddy to Marlon, he is also the new vice mayor.

The Saleses tightened their political grip in the town after trouncing once more their political and bitter foes, the Benemeritos.

The death of former Mayor Rafael Benemerito, a scion of the town's longest running political clan, was no reason for his relatives to quit politics.

Benemerito was killed near his seaside property more than a year ago. Reynolan Sales, the prime suspect in the killing, was briefly detained and eventually released through a temporary restraining order from the Supreme Court.

After failing to get justice in the courts, the Benemeritos thought they could get it from the people by repudiating the Saleses' bid to hold on to power.

Rafael Benemerito's elder brother Rogelio, who once served as Pagudpud mayor after the 1986 Edsa Revolution, made a comeback bid but lost miserably to Marlon.

Reynolan Sales, on the other hand, took the vice mayoral slot against his closest rival Thelma Benemerito, Rafael's widow.

In Solsona town, residents did not want new faces to hold the reigns of power by re-electing Mayor Bertha Luz de Lara, wife of former Mayor Joseph de Lara.

Her brother-in-law, Edison de Lara, also won his second term.

Then there are the Abadilla brothers of Banna town.

Jaime Abadilla, brother of the late Vice Gov. Rolando Abadilla, recaptured the mayoral post while his nephew Carlito Abadilla, Jr., son of Provincial Board Member Carlito, Sr., was elected vice mayor.

The rest of the pack who will take their oath as new leaders are those "who've been there, done that," so what else is new?

Of the 14 re-electionist mayors, only former Mayors Elena Nalupta of Batac town and Kennedy Aquino of Piddig town failed to recapture their posts.

Although they have shown their ability to carve their own niche in politics, six of the eight women mayors are either wives or daughters of the former mayors.

Rosario Go of Currimao town, widow of former Mayor Ernesto Go, got sympathy votes over political rival Cirilo Quilala. Ernesto Go, who has been suffering from diabetes, died during the campaign period.

The rest are Lairvee Espiritu (Dumalneg), Caroline Arzadon (Nueva Era), Nenuca Evangelista (Paoay), Anucacion Pagdilao (Pinili) and Bertha de Lara (Solsona).

Soldiers confront MNLF members on reports ex-rebels hid raiders

DIGOS CITY—Government troopers and members of the Moro National Liberation Front all but shot each other following suspicions by the soldiers that the former guerrillas were hiding in Malita, Davao del Sur, the raiders of the Barcelo Pearl Farm Beach Resort in Palawan.

Since Sunday, soldiers surrounded Camp Bilal, one of the biggest MNLF camps in Barangay Mana in Malita, after intelligence reports claimed that some of the raiders have sought refuge there.

As the military was preparing to enter the camp, which included Sitio Talucanga in Mana and portions of Barangay Balas, MNLF combatants under Commander Ustadz Muksin positioned themselves to defend their "territory."

The MNLF leadership heavily criticized the military cordon around the camp.

Aside from restricting the movement of the residents, the military was also accused of rounding up male residents and searching them like criminals.

Randolph Parcasio, a deputy of MNLF chair Nur Misuari, also accused the military of hamletting, a term used during the Marcos regime to refer to the military's practice of sealing off villages in their hunt for communist or Moro guerrillas.

An alarmed Undersecretary Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for regional concerns in Southern Mindanao, went to Barangay Mana Tuesday afternoon and conducted a dialogue between the military and the MNLF there.

Dureza himself admitted that the tension was very high when he arrived in Camp Bilal.

"The military was trying to get in because of reports that some of the bandits who sought refuge there were being hidden by the MNLF," Dureza said.

To ease the tension, Dureza said he and defense undersecretary Nabil Tan and Parcasio convinced the local MNLF leadership to allow the military to get inside Camp Bilal and villagers and armed MNLF members would get out one by one.

"The MNLF agreed so the tension was defused," Dureza said.

The military, however, failed to find any Pearl Farm raider there.

Intelligence officials said they were very positive that the raiders stayed in Camp Bilal but the refusal of the MNLF to let the military in had given the suspects time to escape.

At least three areas, including Barangay Talagotong in Don Marcelino town, are being tightly watched by the military.

Col. Pedrito Magsino, commander of the 601st Brigade, said the armed men have no way to get out of the cordon area.

In Davao City, regional tourism director Sonio Garcia confirmed that the Japanese Consular Office has issued a travel advisory to all its nationals to reconsider plans of going to Talikud Island and Samal Island following the May 22 attack on the Barcelo Pearl Farm Island Resort. ***Allan A. Nawal with a report from Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

'Butandings' threatened by dynamites

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Seemingly enjoying their stay in the Lingayen Gulf, the whale sharks which arrived last week continue to entertain visitors and residents of this capital town.

But threats to their lives from illegal fishermen continue, too.

Shed owner Arsenio Caronongan said on Monday dawn, deafening blasts were heard from the sea, presumably from blast fishers out to kill the whale sharks.

Four whale sharks, two big and two small, have been spotted on the Lingayen beach. Another one was reportedly seen in Dagupan City also last week where beach goers played with the gentle sea mammals. Some of those who rode the whale sharks' backs, however, complained of bruises because of the mammals' rough skin.

Aside from the daytime entertainment, residents were treated to cetacean sounds at night, residents reported. But they are afraid the whale sharks may leave soon because of dynamite blasting.

"We are asking the authorities to send guards (at) night because it is when the illegal fishermen ply their trade," he said.

The maritime police arrested four fishermen last week whom they caught blasting the whale sharks. Provincial Administrator Virgilio Solis said he asked the provincial police to man the beach, too.

But perhaps thinking the whale sharks have left, the police have also left their posts.

Whale sharks, one of the largest but among the gentlest animals in the world, are not much affected by dynamite blasting, said a staff of the Lingayen Gulf Coastal Area Management Commission.

Their skeletal system is cartilaginous which does not easily break unlike bones. But they may get hurt and leave the gulf.

Last weekend, the usually sleepy Lingayen beach was alive with visitors who wanted to have a glimpse of the whale sharks. However, only two were seen. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Robbers wear nursing uniforms in heist

CEBU CITY—A still undetermined amount of cash was taken when seven armed men robbed a branch of Land Bank of the Philippines in Talibon town, Bohol yesterday afternoon.

Roldan Monalim, public information officer of the Talibon municipal government, quoted police as saying that at least P3 million was taken by the suspects.

But Oliver Tabigue, Land Bank branch manager, declined to confirm the amount, saying the bank was still investigating.

The daylight robbery was the first to happen in Bohol this year.

Monalim said the suspects, clad in white polo shirts and white pants, pretended to be nursing students when they went into the bank at 1:45 p.m.

They pulled out .45-caliber pistols, tied the lone security guard and locked up bank employees in the toilet.

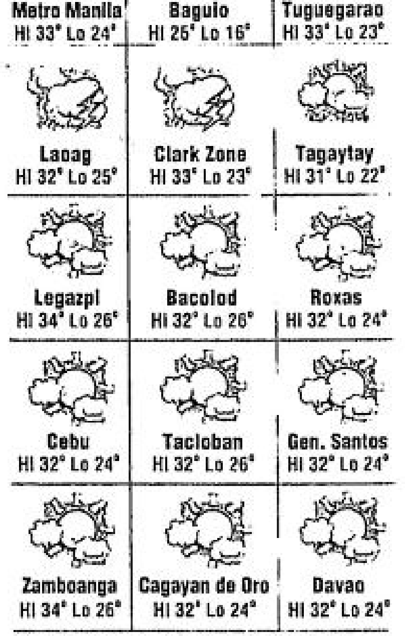
They took the money from the tellers and fled on board a motorcycle.

Policemen caught up with the suspects and a shootout ensued. But the suspects were still able to escape on board a pumpboat at the Bagacay Port. ***Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rianshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA



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Laoag HI 32° Lo 25°	Clark Zone HI 33° Lo 23°	Tagaytay HI 31° Lo 22°
Legazpi HI 34° Lo 26°	Bacolod HI 32° Lo 26°	Roxas HI 32° Lo 24°
Cebu HI 32° Lo 24°	Tacloban HI 32° Lo 26°	Gen. Santos HI 32° Lo 24°
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Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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Too many stray dogs on Boracay, tourists complain

By H. Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—It's stray dogs' turn to hound tourists on Boracay Island who have been complaining of dog poo on the white beach and numerous canines roaming the famed island.

Edwin Trompeta, Department of Tourism director for Western Visayas, said his office received an "avalanche" of complaints this summer from foreign and local tourists on the stray dogs.

He said the complaints started coming in since 1998 and the incidents involving stray dogs and tourists were "too many to count."

Trompeta said the Malay municipal government to which Boracay belongs has yet to implement policies to exterminate the dogs although it already has funds from the DOT.

The DOT gave P10,000 in 1998 and P10,000 in 1999 to the local government to have the stray dogs killed or impounded.

Last year, the Boracay Development Council built a dog pound but the unwanted canines are still around and steadily multiplying.

"In just one kilometer, I myself have met more than 15 stray dogs and have seen so many droppings," he told the INQUIRER.

He showed an e-mail dated Feb. 16 from a foreign tourist who said that on his first hour on Boracay, a group of dogs urinated on all his clothes and towels while he was swimming.

A week later, the e-mail said, a friend of his young son was bitten by a sleeping dog she accidentally stepped on.

A local tourist also wrote to the DOT on May 2, complaining about the stray dogs.

"On the beach, there were a few bathers and walkers yet so we were able to see the dog droppings every 10 meters or so. The white beach was literally a urinal...for stray dogs," wrote Liillu Hipe of Cebu City.

Trompeta said they sent the letters to concerned officials and called on them to act.

"But they have not done anything about it, thus we get all those complaints," he said.

Illegal gun raps filed vs 91-yr-old

DUMAGUETE CITY—Police filed illegal possession of firearms charges against businessman Carlos Bell Raymond, 91, who allegedly shot and wounded his wife, former Dumaguete acting Mayor Pilar Teves Raymond, 83.

Chief Insp. Rey Lyndon Lawas, Dumaguete police chief, said they filed the case against Carlos on Monday after they recovered a .38 cal. revolver that Carlos allegedly used to shoot his wife.

The gun was turned over to the police by the couple's son James, who claimed to have recovered it from his father's possession shortly after his mother was shot inside their room about 4 p.m. on Sunday.

The gun, a *paltik*, had two spent and three live bullets. It would be subjected to a ballistic test at the Philippine National Police crime laboratory.

Lawas said there seemed to be no interest among family members to file a case against Carlos for the shooting of his wife.

Pilar was recuperating at a local hospital after doctors extracted a slug from her lower right buttock.

Carlos had asked to be admitted to a hospital Sunday after complaining of a heart ailment. ***Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau***

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1032, Series of 2001

"Part of the reason why we're a poor country is the high cost of electricity. Kaya mahal ang bilihin."

"LET US SUPPORT OUR LEGISLATORS AS THEY PASS THE NEW POWER BILL IN A SPECIAL SESSION THIS MONTH."

-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

We support the passage of the New Power Bill.

We recognize the present state of our electricity industry:

- The Philippines has one of the highest electricity prices in the region;
- The liabilities of the National Power Corporation represents 25% of our national debt and the company continues to receive subsidies of up to P16 billion a year;
- The energy sector needs investments worth $1 billion a year for the next 10 years and government cannot answer for this.

We also recognize that the best way to remedy the situation is to restructure the industry, privatize NPC and institutionalize competition through the Power Reform Bill. We are aware that electricity reform has the following potential benefits:

- Rationalized electricity prices for industrial consumers and lowered electricity prices for residential consumers resulting from better capital structures
- Immediate 5% rate rebate as mandated in the bill;
- Estimated welfare benefits amounting to P1000 per household per year
- As much as 500,000 new jobs brought about by additional investments due to lower electricity costs.

We believe that the bill should have enough safeguards to protect consumers through the reform process. These are:

- More safeguards for competition such as caps on the amounts of electricity a private distributor can buy from its affiliates, mandates on amounts of electricity that must be sourced from the spot market, caps on the market shares of generators to 30% per grid and 25% nationwide, and mandated structural and accounting separation of regulated and non-regulated industries.
- Non-automatic recovery of stranded costs of private distribution utilities;
- Lower levels for open access from 2 MW to 1 MW;
- Stronger powers for the regulator to prevent and redress market abuse;
- Benefits for electric cooperatives such as 5-year grace period before open access, concessional financing terms for acquiring NPC's sub-transmission assets, and a program for condonation of existing liabilities.

We believe electricity reform is vital to the economic development of our country and that an improved bill containing the above should be carried out as soon as possible. We therefore support the president's call for the immediate passage of a New Power Bill.

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

Lightning strikes twice

By Gobleth Moulic and Vincent Cabreza
Baguio City

FILIPINOS will soon see a Filipino documentary on Discovery Channel-Asia about how Filipino wisdom helped save the destiny of an indigenous Filipino community.

The documentary will discuss what indigenous Filipinos have been vulnerable to and what Filipino wisdom requires in handling 21st century globalization.

But when your father is a celebrity filmmaker, and he is the proponent of an outrageous experiment aimed at securing the destiny of an Ifugao village, expect that film to also feature genuine Filipino soul, said 25-year-old filmmaker Kidlat de Guia.

De Guia, a one-time contributor to the multi-awarded "The Probe Team," is a son of filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik whose works and vision were captured in a 30-minute Discovery Channel documentary that will soon be broadcast in the Asia-Pacific region.

Good break

While the world ogled at the historic arrest of former President Joseph Estrada on April 25, De Guia had been selected in Singapore as the recipient of the Discovery Channel's 4th First Filmmaker's program.

The program offers short-term grants to new documentary talents in Asia for films on how the cultures respond to the onslaught of modernity and a shrinking world.

"It was so far the biggest break in my life," said De Guia, a 1999 broadcast communications graduate of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

He admitted that the project came just when he was trying to carve his own niche and identity that would distinguish him from his father, an internationally acclaimed filmmaker.

"It's an advantage that I grew up with a weird family (who is into filmmaking) but I would like to explore new things. I'm dead serious about this project but whether I would excel in this field in the next five years, I would not know. Let's see what happens," he said.

The Discovery Channel, with some help from Kidlat Tahimik, nudged De Guia back to his roots.

"It was my father who (pressured me about this project). He told me about it but I always managed to put it aside. He (nagged) me about it. Finally, I opened the Discovery web page only to find out I only had a couple of days to (beat) their deadline. I typed a proposal, slept on it while my father corrected the proposal," he said.

"I woke up and took out my father's corrections, the corrections I felt had made the proposal a Kidlat Tahimik proposal, and then had my father send it out by e-mail.

"I thought I didn't get it anymore because (Discovery Channel) said it would take a week to tell whether I had gotten it. Then on April 25, I received this phone call. I knew it was an overseas call, but I thought it was my uncle (German filmmaker Hans Kristian Moller). But it was Discovery. I was dancing and jumping when I received that call."

De Guia immediately realized that the grant offered him a choice between tackling an intimate portrait of Kidlat Tahimik or addressing the soul of Ifugao.

His UP thesis initially grappled with the same dialectic.

De Guia said UP wanted a journalistic documentation of the Ifugao project. It used rushes of Kidlat Tahimik's own filmography of Ifugao.

When UP saw the thesis, the institution suggested a shift in perspective to a more intimate portrait of Kidlat Tahimik.

Discovery Channel was presented with De Guia's final UP thesis that bore the "intimate" version.

'Trojan Box'

His proposed documentary called "Trojan Box," liberally adopts much of De Guia's UP film thesis.

De Guia said the thesis tackles the problem of how indigenous society was being eroded by popular Western culture, propagated there through television.

His UP thesis opens with Kidlat Tahimik, wearing only an Igorot g-string in front of the camera, discussing his theory that the video camera can help advance the self-worth many of the country's indigenous Filipinos have abandoned due to extreme poverty and extreme prejudices.

Kidlat Tahimik had officially adopted Hapao, a village in Hungduan, Ifugao, as his new home to replace what he called "abysmally urbane" Baguio, where he grew up.

In his forays there, Kidlat Tahimk had been tutoring mountain folk about filmmaking to develop a capacity to "see themselves through the eye of a camera."

It had been a three-year-old experiment with unpredictable results, Kidlat Tahimik told the INQUIRER.

He managed to deliver second-hand video cameras to his Ifugao neighbors, who were advised to use them in their daily chores.

Kidlat Tahimik also proposed to ship in an editing machine, to help the village folk package their output.

LIGHTNING strikes twice in the form of another filmmaker, Kidlat de Guia, son of internationally'known filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik. E.V. ESPIRITU

"Our own culture is dying out. And Western culture is coming in. A lot of young people in this generation are no longer interested in the old traditional culture. They are more concerned in becoming doctors, professionals in the city," De Guia said.

De Guia, who frequently joined his father in Ifugao, said the community has been very enthusiastic about using the standard video camera to document its traditions.

"I'm sure the usual weddings and birthday celebrations will turn up in those films, but there will always be facets of culture in all of them," Kidlat Tahimik said.

The most daunting task he has yet to conquer, however, is the bad weather. If this happens, he cannot do anything but to shoot under the rain to beat his September deadline.

De Guia said his father alone would have been good material for the international channel.

But De Guia's Discovery assignment was not as easy as it sounded. For example, the Discovery film appeared to have rekindled profoundly Freudian issues about his bewildering childhood, which had kept him away from the film medium for years.

Raised in Baguio with siblings Kawayan, 24, and Kabunian, 19, De Guia had been the least frenetic of Kidlat Tahimik's sons.

"(As the eldest), I have been sort of the rebel. I was pushing against my father. It's a common (growing up) story. For a time, I was even (distancing myself) from the medium I grew up with. I took up broadcasting at UP (which was the other extreme to Kidlat Tahimik's purist concepts about technology and how it had wasted away Filipino culture)," De Guia admitted, as he scanned rushes on his computer of his father digging a trench in Ifugao.

Like his brothers, De Guia was nurtured in Kidlat Tahimik's philosophy about the Filipinos' natural "*preno* (brake)" system, which had been eroded by Western television, the cable industry and Hollywood movies.

Kidlat Tahimik had used this principle whenever he criticized the effect of television—the Filipino 'Trojan Box"—to students in UP College Baguio.

His body of work, in fact, satirizes how media and Western culture helped create a schizophrenic Filipino culture.

It is a principle De Guia still agrees with, despite the "commercial" nature of his career so far.

Since graduating, he dabbled in broadcast journalism with "The Probe Team," and had been taking video contracts for corporations and celebrities.

Kidlat Tahimik tried to live a lifestyle that was far from "normal" compared to his "dysfunctional family."

He said it was not out of spite.

De Guia described his father as "good crazy," who headed a family that was so dysfunctional because of everyone's independent streak that they all managed to become a "functional" unit in the last 25 years.

The siblings call their father "Eric," for example, not out of disrespect, but to treat their father as an equal and a friend.

Their camera "sword play" during the INQUIRER interview also provided insights about the state of affairs in the De Guia household.

Kidlat Tahimik's comparatively ancient, multiple-lens, 16-millimeter camera managed to "wing" De Guia as both dueled around their cramped editing room, filled to the core with Ifugao-inspired sculpture, a very modern editing laboratory and an unkempt bed inside the De Guia compound in Baguio City.

To the rest of the world, though, De Guia said they managed to keep up with social norms.

He declined an INQUIRER proposal to shoot his portrait, dressed in Kidlat Tahimik's g-string, as a tongue-in-cheek homage.

"I did not want to. I wear a g-string when it is appropriate. I wore a g-string during a ritual in Hapao, for instance," he said.

But De Guia said Filipino viewers will see a Discovery Channel piece about Hapao by the end of the year, and should not expect a Kidlat Tahimik biography.

He said economics and the state of the international cable industry demand it. It will also be a more carefully edited version, because of Discovery's concerns about litigation.

"I was told that one of the earlier First Filmmakers, I think he was from Africa, had trouble getting his film broadcast because of the song, "Happy Birthday.'"

The rushes show a little girl singing "Happy Birthday," and Discovery wanted the filmmaker to obtain (clearance from the popular song's copyright owner). He was surprised because everyone sang 'Happy Birthday' all over the world. He finally got clearance, but had to pay about $1,000 for its rights. That's (the West) for you," De Guia related.

Kidlat Tahimik, who was listening nearby, only gave the INQUIRER an enigmatic smile.

Noticing his father, De Guia cracked: "He's just happy to be right all along (about television)."

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Gov't imposes news blackout on AFP moves

(From page A1)

"We are going to talk to him and we are going to find out what he will say on the air. If it's going to be for the good of the hostages, we will air it. But if it's not good, we will probably hold back a little and we're going to find out," Canoy said after he attended a cocktail tendered by the President for owners and executives of various newspapers and radio and television outfits in Malacañang to enlist their support in her moves against the Abu Sayyaf.

Canoy said RMN would not like to air statements like the Abu Sayyaf was going to shoot all the hostages.

"We would like to help but a news blackout is for the tactical military operations. But as far as interviews are concerned, we will report the news," said Bobby Ante, also of RMN.

Canoy said that since the abduction, Sabaya had called up the station about five times using a satellite phone.

He confirmed that Sabaya used to be a "trainee" at RMN Zamboanga some three years ago.

Canoy said the President did not ask him why RMN aired Sabaya's interviews. But he said she made note of the fact that Sabaya was regularly calling up the RMN.

No commitment

The media executives who attended the cocktail in Malacañang's Rizal Room at 6:30 last night gave no commitment on her "appeal" to impose a news blackout on the operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

Some media executives had a show of hands in support of the President's news blackout but no formal consensus was taken, according to Elmar Acol, reporter of Bombo Radyo Phils.

"The President asked them to support the government's operations against the terrorists. I don't think that (news blackout) was mentioned at all," Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco said.

REUTERS

ARMED Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva addresses newly deployed soldiers in Puerto Princesa.

Jojo Robles, news director of dzRH, said the President reiterated her appeal to the media executives "but nobody gave a commitment."

He said not even the President could order the private media entities what to do "but we will see the developments."

He assured the public that dzRH would continue to cover the event.

"We are not sending people yet because we do not know where the location is. But once we know where they are, dzRH will be there," Robles said.

But in her weekly news conference the President asked newsmen not to enter Abu Sayyaf lairs, warning that they could be kidnapped and held for ransom.

"I am appealing to journalists to help, and avoid creating more problems for the government," she said.

She stressed that at this point, the news blackout was still an "appeal" to media.

No ban

Earlier yesterday, Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said journalists would be allowed to cover military operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

"There will be no ban on media coverage," Adan told anxious reporters.

"We would not encourage you to go to Jolo at this time but in case you'll be proceeding, please observe guidelines to ensure your safety," Adan said.

"We hope the incident last year will not be repeated because it adds up to the problem," he said.

He was referring to the abduction of several foreign and local journalists who were covering the Jolo hostage crisis involving 21 mostly foreign captives taken from a Malaysian resort.

The President said she had not yet ordered the military to physically prevent reporters from entering Abu Sayyaf strongholds.

When asked if she was considering an order to close the ports of Basilan and Sulu to newsmen, the President said: "Well, if it becomes unmanageable by appeal."

War going on

Ms Macapagal justified the news blackout, saying that military operations required "secrecy" to surprise the terrorist group.

"When there's a war, you know what the priorities are. And there's a war going on in that part of the Philippines," she said.

During the press conference, Ms Macapagal invoked the "news blackout" policy several times and refused to reply to questions concerning government plans and tactics.

These included questions on whether the government planned to seek the support of foreign countries and local Muslim politicians.

She also refused to say how she would deal with the Abu Sayyaf's threat to kill the hostages.

Senators supported the news blackout but said the military should give daily news briefings on what was happening.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said "tactical moves" of the military must never be divulged, "because otherwise you telegraph your punches to the enemy unnecessarily."

But he said it was important that the AFP conduct daily briefings "so that the people are not kept in the dark."

Outgoing Sen. Francisco Tatad noted that in similar situations abroad, a news blackout was usually imposed. But he said that the government must provide news briefings.

Sen. Loren Legarda said she was for transparency, but "I don't want to hear about money changing hands, about ransom being paid, negotiations being under way, etc.

"I am not for a complete blackout, but I want the media to be very responsible on this very delicate and sensitive issue," she said.

Opposition Sen. Vicente Sotto III said it was not right for media to reveal military operations while Sen. Gregorio Honasan said media should exercise "self-restraint" when covering the terrorist group.

Honasan warned newsmen from giving the Abu Sayyaf "too much attention," noting the group was "hungry for national and international recognition."

US Embassy spokesperson Tom Skipper lauded the President's decision to impose a news blackout and said the embassy agreed with her intention "to keep the incident a very low key one."

Nine newspapers, three TV and six radio stations were invited to the Malacañang cocktail.

Those who came were Amando Doronila of the INQUIRER, Emilio Yap and Nap Rama of the Manila Bulletin, Miguel Belmonte and Bobby de la Cruz of the Philippine Star, Adrian Cristobal of the Manila Times, Ramon Faustino Dolor of the Manila Standard, Amado Macasaet of Malaya, Henry Locsin and James Saspa of Today, Ronnie Romero of Businessworld, Philip King and Benjie Defensor of Journal.

Representing the TV networks were ABS-CBN's Gabby Lopez, Danny Bernardo and DJ Sta. Ana and GMA 7's Felipe Gozon, Jimmy Duavit and Bobby Barreiro.

Antonio Cabangon-Chua of dwIZ, Mario Garcia of Veritas, Robles and Deo Macalma of dzRH, Canoy, Edith Bautista and Bobby Ante of RMN, and Acol for Bombo Radyo also attended the cocktails. *With reports from Rocky Nazareno and AFP*

Military declares open season for bandits

(From page A1)

any of the bandits "under the principle of citizens' arrest."

An armed group could also coordinate with military troops by joining patrols or providing intelligence information, he said.

"The sooner we end this terrorist group, the better. Everything else it secondary to the national interest," Adan said.

In a news conference in Malacanang, Ms Macapagal said she had no objections to the military's plan.

Asked to comment on reports that the military was willing to arm even civilians, Ms Macapagal said she didn't think it would cause any problem.

Under the reward system, an informer will be paid P5 million for the capture of a top Abu Sayyaf leader and P1 million for an ordinary bandit.

Adan said the reward system had proven advantageous to the government in the past.

Abdurajak Janjalani, Abu Sayyaf founder, and Edwin Angeles, a police informer who later joined the bandit group, were killed in separate incidents based on information provided authorities.

"We are calling on residents of the Sulu archipelago to cooperate with us in locating these terrorists who are doing great damage to the economy and the nation," Adan said.

MILF help

In Cotabato City, MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said his group had forces in Sulu and Basilan that could help the government neutralize the Abu Sayyaf, a ragged band of self-styled Moro independence fighters.

Kabalu said the government's decision to crush the Abu Sayyaf was correct.

"Here is a group that does eveything the Koran prohibits. It's not an Islamic movement. What they're doing is plain banditry," he said in an interview with radio station dxMS.

Kabalu said the MILF was helping the government as a confidence-building measure.

The MILF, which is fighting for the establishment of an independent Moro homeland in Mindanao, is scheduled to resume formal peace talks with the government soon.

Senate

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., however, warned against the use of vigilantes in the government's fight against the Abu Sayyaf.

"The use of vigilantes will only exacerbate the situation, it will escalate the level of violence if you allow vigilantes to do the work of regular military and police units," Pimentel said.

Should the military seek the help of armed civilian groups, their role should be limited to "giving support as blocking force or pinpointing the exact location of the Abu Sayyaf bandits," he said.

Pimentel and the other senators also voiced misgivings about the President's plan to offer rewards for the capture of the bandits.

"Judas sold Christ for 30 pieces of silver. I don't discount the possibility that the monetary inducement can break even family bonds," Pimentel said.

Sen. Vicente Sotto called for safeguards in handing down rewards, saying the scheme was prone to abuse.

Sen. Loren Legarda echoed Sotto's views.

"I hope the captors themselves or their families will not give the tip so they end up having both the bounty and ransom to enable them to buy more firearms," she said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national security and defense, said members of the military and police should not be entitled to any reward.

Senate Majority Floor Leader Francisco Tatad said the P100-million bounty indicated the intelligence arms of the military and the police had failed in their tasks.

Sen. Renato Cayetano, however, said putting up rewards was the best way to get the kidnappers. *With reports from Armand N. Nocum and Martin P. Marfil in Manila; and Edwin O. Fernandez, Charlie C. Señase and Allan A. Nawal/PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Where are Dos Palmas hostages?

(From page A1)

Sabaya told dxDZ Radyo Agong on Monday that the Abu Sayyaf was behind the Sunday abduction of 17 Filipinos and three Americans from the Dos Palmas Arreceffi Beach Resort in Puerto Princesa City.

He said the hostages had been divided into two groups and taken separately to Basilan and Sulu.

But Camiling said Sabaya's claim had been intended to mislead authorities and derail pursuit operations.

"We know the capabilities of the satellite phone. You can (call from) wherever you are," Camiling said.

Adan said "this could be a ploy to mislead our troops."

Objectives

Agence France Presse quoted Adan as saying that the military's objectives were "to neutralize these kidnappers and terrorists (and) arrest them" and "to rescue the hostages unharmed."

"These two missions are equally important," he said.

If the bandits resist, he said, "then we shoot them."

Based on the AFP's assessment, the Abu Sayyaf left Palawan for Mapun Island using a vessel with a speed of 30 knots.

Col. Valentin Prudencio, deputy commander of the Tactical Operations Wing, pointed out that the boats of the Philippine Navy "can only run on a 12-knot speed," and that the military's nighttime monitoring capacity was limited.

"Planes can't fly while the Navy's monitoring is quite controlled," Prudencio said, adding that the bandits and their hostages could slip away at night if they did not use their boats' engines.

Camiling also noted that the bandits' wooden boats had three outboard engines. But he aired the assurance that the Navy could still go after the bandits.

Prudencio insisted that the bandits and their hostages were still at Mapun.

He said they had received reports that the vessels used by the bandits were seen floating at sea.

"Probably they ran out of fuel," he said.

Supt. Akmadul Pangambayan, Basilan police chief, said there were no reports of Abu Sayyaf landings in his province.

Sources in Sulu also said they had received no reports that the hostages were brought there.

No deployment

In Cagayan de Oro City, Brig. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, chief of the Army 4th Infantry Division, said he would meet with resort owners and tourism officials in Northern Mindanao to map out security measures for the safety of tourists.

Dagudag ruled out the deployment of troops to the resorts, especially those in Camiguin and Siargao Islands, the primary tourist destinations in Northern Mindanao.

"Posting troops in those resorts would mean the certain death of our tourism industry," he said.

Dagudag also said the resort owners themselves would object to troop deployment.

Meanwhile, Philippine Army chief Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos defended the AFP intelligence units from accusations that these had failed to anticipate the hostage taking in Palawan.

"Our human intelligence assets are good. It was in the area of technology that we failed," he said.

De los Santos also said the ocean between Palawan and Sulu covers a vast area that was "simply too much" for the AFP's air and naval resources.

He urged resort owners to tighten their security, saying: "Security should be the concern of all, not only of the military. We have our intelligence units but if the resort owners are vigilant, then that could help a lot."

In Davao City, some 800 soldiers belonging to the 56th Infantry Battalion were pulled out of Makilala, North Cotabato, for an assignment yet unknown.

The soldiers and their families left Makilala midnight Monday and arrived at Camp Panacan in Davao City at 3 a.m. yesterday.

Col. Felipe Berroya, chief of the 701st Infantry Brigade, said the soldiers would be brought home to Luzon. But there are suspicions that they will be taken to Basilan for the rescue operations.

A Navy ship has supposedly been sent to Camp Panacan from Zamboanga City to transport the 800 soldiers.

Intelligence

Adan said the government was coordinating with the United States in building up intelligence data for the neutralization of the Abu Sayyaf and the rescue of its 20 hostages.

The US and Philippine naval forces are set to start an 11-day series of joint exercises on June 1.

Dubbed "Carat 2001 (Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training)," the exercises will involve more than 1,440 US soldiers, four vessels (the USS Curtis, USS Wadsworth, USS Rushmore and US Safeguard), and one P3C Orion aircraft, and 1,175 Philippine troops, eight naval vessels and two aircraft.

According to a statement issued by the Philippine Navy, the exercises are designed to promote "interoperability between the US and Philippine forces in the areas of operational planning, command and control, tactics and community relations projects."

The exercises will take place in and around Subic, the former US naval base in Zambales; the Marine base in Ternate, Cavite; the Naval Education and Training Command in Zambales; Fort San Felipe in Sangley Point, Cavite; Bonifacio Naval Station in Makati City; and the Navy Headquarters in Manila.

Adan said the government was also sharing intelligence with the Malaysian government.

"What we need are current and relevant information," he said.

He noted that the United States could share this type of information "considering its resources."

For example, Adan said, the United States had the capability to pinpoint the location of the Abu Sayyaf's Sabaya and his band should he use telecommunications facilities to make contact with the media or the authorities.

"Operational matters will be left for the Armed Forces to conduct," Adan said. *With reports from Froilan Gallardo, Grace Cantal-Albasin and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Carlito Pablo in Manila; Agence France Presse*

Just a 'blip' in RP recovery–Macapagal

(From page A1)

Malacañang, referring to the Abu Sayyaf's daring raid on the Dos Palmas resort on Sunday.

"Things like this happen. Just last night I was looking at a two-day riot somewhere in the United Kingdom."

But she pointed out that the important thing was "we must address this decisively to show the world that we can protect our citizens, our visitors and our investors."

Ms Macapagal cited the government's "decisive" response when supporters of her jailed predecessor, Joseph Estrada, rioted outside Malacañang on May 1 to protest his arrest ahead of his corruption trial next month.

Security forces dispersed the crowd of 50,000. Ms Macapagal later declared a state of rebellion in Metro Manila and ordered the arrest of suspected leaders of the bloody protest.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the Ms Macapagal was "saddened" by the kidnapping, but he added she was "confident" of surmounting the present crisis.

"We already had the test of the Edsa rallies (in late April), the test of the May 1 (siege), the test now of the power reform bill and now another test in another front. The President is confident she would pass this test again," Tiglao said.

Stock market

"The market's decline was expected, since it will take some time to price into the market the fact that the Abu Sayyaf is still active," Bongolan of PCCI Securities & Brokers said.

With the main stock index close to its 1380-point trendline support, Bongolan said the market might test the support level.

But he said the market should also consider the potential for economic reforms in the country under the Macapagal administration.

"I don't think we deserve a (low) valuation like the one we had last year," he said, referring to the market's weakness when the country was buffeted by a political crisis under the administration of deposed leader Joseph Estrada.

Efren Cruz of Mutual Fund Management Company of the Philippines said the market was likely to drift sideways in a narrow range pending the resolution of the power bill issue in Congress and the release of the first quarter GDP (growth domestic growth) figures.

Growth numbers for the first three months are due to be released on Thursday, with analysts expecting a much weaker economic performance than the final quarter last year.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said last week that the government might slash this year's economic growth target from the already-lowered mark of 3.8 percent.

He said GDP growth in the three months to March would only reach between 2.3-3.0 percent based on preliminary estimates amid the US and Japan economic slowdown, which hit the country's exports.

Gordon

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, however, didn't seem worried despite warnings by some officials that the country's $2.5-billion tourism industry could be the first to be hit in the wake of the abductions.

"We're not dead. We're alive and kicking," said Gordon who had been assigned to head a special task force that would secure the country's resorts.

He said foreign groups were going ahead with their plans to hold conventions in the country, including Palawan.

Gordon rejected reports that the country had failed to shed an image as a haven for kidnappers. "It's unfair to say that we are a kidnap capital. Palawan is safe. Other tourism areas are safe," he said, adding more investment should be poured into the tourism sector.

A platoon of soldiers has been sent to resorts on Boracay Island in Western Visayas, about three hours from Dos Palmas by speedboat.

But National Security Adviser Roilo Golez admitted that it was "impossible for the military and police to cover the entire Philippines with its many resorts and other possible targets."

Golez said resort owners should share the responsibility for their own security as he criticized some for rejecting government offers of security.

"They have been told to double security. Resort owners hesitate to accept security offered by the military because these tourists are allergic to armed personnel," he said. *With reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

GMA warns . . .

(From page A1)

quently last year while holding a group of 21 people, mostly foreign tourists, abducted from the Malaysian resort of Sipadan.

Government officials have in the past communicated with the Abu Sayyaf through the station, the Associated Press noted.

The President also said she had sought the help of foreign countries in trying to resolve the latest hostage-taking incident.

She said Malaysia had started to step up its patrols, but refused to give details on the other countries that had been asked to help.

She pointed out that a firm handling of the crisis was what was needed.

"We must address this decisively to show the world that we can protect our citizens, our visitors and our investors . . . That is why we are working not only on addressing the (current) problem but (also) on how to prevent (it) from happening again," she said.

Open to dialogue

The US government is supporting the Macapagal administration's "no negotiation for ransom" policy.

However, it is "open to a dialogue with the Abu Sayyaf, hoping we can convince them to release the hostages without conditions," US Embassy spokesperson Tom Skipper said yesterday.

"But we maintain our stand that we will not clinch any concession or ransom deal with these terrorists," he said.

He acknowledged that the Macapagal administration's policy on kidnapping was the same as that of the US government.

Last year, the Abu Sayyaf also took hostage American Jeffrey Schilling, who managed to escape in April at the height of the AFP's renewed offensive against the bandit group.

Schilling, from Oakland, California, was largely unharmed.

But Sabaya issued what appeared to be a veiled threat against the safety of the Dos Palmas hostages, particularly the three Americans—Guillermo Sobero and missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham.

He told radio RMN that Schilling, who was held captive for eight months, was not seriously harmed because he was a Muslim convert.

Schilling had voluntarily entered the bandits' camp with his Filipino wife, whom the bandits later released.

Flush them out

Msgr. Hernando Coronel, media director of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said the CBCP was "deeply concerned about the plight of the hostages and what their families are going through," and was praying for their "early release."

"We are also praying that the Abu Sayyaf, the perpetrators of the kidnappings, be flushed out and made to face justice," Coronel told the INQUIRER.

The CBCP's position on the latest hostage crisis is consistent with its call last year for the military and police to flush out the bandits who were holding the Sipadan hostages.

Basilan Bishop Romulo de la Cruz, who initially aired the call, was subsequently harassed and threatened with death and mutilation by the Abu Sayyaf.

"We are not asking the government troops to wipe them out. We are asking that they be flushed out and their hostages rescued by the military and police," Coronel said, although he did not discount the possibility of negotiations with the bandits.

According to the CBCP, the acts of the Abu Sayyaf are acts of terrorism that have no religious or ideological basis.

Coronel had lamented that such acts only served to deepen the divisions among Christians and Muslims in Mindanao, in the same way, he said, that the "all-out war" policy of the Estrada administration resulted in renewed prejudices between them.

In a statement, the Burnhams' New Tribes Mission ministry said: "We are concerned for the safety and well-being of Martin and Gracia Burnham and for each of the other 18 people taken."

It said that "as guests here in the Philippines, it would be inappropriate for us to comment on the (no-negotiation) position of the Philippine government."

"However, we do appreciate and support any and all efforts leading to the safe return of each person being held," it added.

The Burnhams, longtime Philippine residents, are originally from Kansas. *With reports from Rocky Nazareno, Norman Bordadora and AFP*

Cebu votes send Recto to 11th spot

(From page A1)

missioner Rufus Rodriguez, counsel for former first lady Loi Ejercito Estrada, expressed confidence that Recto would fall off the Magic 13 after the bailiwick votes of the Puwersa ng Masa from Maguindanao, Iligan City, Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte had been canvassed.

"That is statistically possible," Rodriguez said.

The National Board of Canvassers (NBC) is still waiting for the COCs from Eastern Samar, Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao. These provinces, along with Caloocan City and Lanao del Norte, have a total of 1.8 million registered voters.

Rodriguez revealed that a total of 93,000 votes would be slashed from Recto's total votes today after the discovery of padding of Recto's votes by 61,000 votes in Tawi-Tawi and 17,000 in Zamboanga del Norte.

Rodriguez said Recto's 15,000 votes in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat, would be voided as a result of the NBC decision to cancel the COC of the town where the votes for all candidates were found to have been padded.

Election officials said they could proclaim some of the winners from the May 14 elections this week with 95.1 percent of the COCs counted.

"That depends on whether the votes coming in will not affect the standing of the first 13," Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo said. "Although it would seem to me that those in the Top Six are immovable already."

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has filed a petition to stop the partial proclamation of winners, saying that it will preempt the outcome of the complaints filed by opposition lawyers in connection with the alleged padding of votes in favor of PPC candidates.

Rodriguez said he would also oppose any partial proclamation because the remaining 1.8 million votes in the COCs yet to be canvassed could still affect the positions occupied by the candidates in the Magic 13.

12-0-1 for PPC in Cebu

Nobody from the PnM entered the Magic 13 in Cebu and Cebu City. Independent Noli de Castro, who was leading in the national total with 15.6 million votes, was only 10th in Cebu and 13th in Cebu City.

Recto got a total of 674,090 votes from Cebu and Cebu City, while Enrile had 214,022 votes.

Four other PPC candidates moved up in the rankings with the help of the Cebu votes. Franklin Drilon returned to 4th from 5th place, while Joker Arroyo moved up to No. 5 from No. 6.

Francis Pangilinan made the biggest jump, improving to a safer 8th place from 11th on Monday.

Due to the shutout of the PnM in Cebu, four of its candidates slid in the ranking. Edgardo Angara fell to 9th from 5th place.

Former police chief Panfilo Lacson slid to 10th place from 9th on Monday. He leads Recto by 115,355 votes.

Recto's rise to 11th place pushed Ejercito down to 12th and reelectionist Sen. Gregorio Honasan to No. 13.

Recto's lead over Estrada, however, was only 37,000 votes.

Honasan has a 733,482-lead over Enrile, his acknowledged mentor, who took back the 14th spot from Santiago.

Cebu province voted straight for the PPC, but this was not enough to push Chato past De Castro. De Castro's entry to the Magic 13 here relegated Chato to the 14th position..

It was also a shutout for the PPC in Cebu City. Outside PPC, only Castro made it to the winning circle but only at No. 13.

Interestingly, Cebuano reelectionist Sen. Sergio Osmeña III topped the senatorial race in Cebu province, but placed fourth only in Cebu City, whose mayor, his cousin Tom Osmeña, was his campaign manager.

It was Magsaysay who ranked No. 1 in Cebu City. It appeared that he was liked well by Cebuanos as he placed second to Osmeña in Cebu province.

Benipayo, who also heads the NBC, declared a suspension of canvassing at 3:15 p.m. after the COC for Cebu City was read as there were no more COCs to be canvassed.

"Tomorrow (today) hopefully we'll be able to canvass Caloocan," Benipayo said.

"We expect that (Caloocan COC to arrive) tonight (last night) and after that we expect Lanao de Norte to come," he added.

Miriam trains gun on fellow PnM bets

In danger of not getting reelected, Santiago yesterday turned her acerbic tongue on fellow opposition candidates who look headed for the Senate.

In her first news forum since the May 14 polls, Santiago said she had "no doubt" that she won but that she was allegedly being cheated by the Macapagal administration.

She claimed that the administration was working to keep her and Enrile out of the winning circle.

Santiago said President Macapagal-Arroyo's "working goal" all along was 8-5 in favor of the PPC because a 13-0 victory was impossible to achieve.

"But they chose which five opposition candidates will make it They do not want me and Ninong Johnny in. If you are the President and you're not a law graduate would you dare argue with me?" she said at a news forum in L'eau Vive restaurant in Paco, Manila.

She said Ejercito, Lacson and Honasan were in the winning circle because the three were not lawyers.

When someone pointed out that Angara, who was in the Magic 13, was a lawyer, Santiago retorted that Angara was not a typical UP lawyer.

"Well he's not a paradigmatic UP lawyer. When you say you're a UP lawyer you think of someone aggressive to the point of annoyance . . . That's how we are trained," she said.

"Angara, by personal choice, prefers to cooperate rather than confront. In my case I want to confront," she said.

She said Ejercito only won because she got the votes of the loyalists of jailed President Joseph Estrada.

Santiago said the ousted leader still enjoyed strong support since he was elected President just two years ago.

"That's why Dr. Estrada won despite her lack of political background; (she does) not even (have) political interest," Santiago said.

As for De Castro, an opposition guest candidate, Santiago said he won because of his extensive television exposure.

"Unlike in days past when people study the qualifications, especially the academic qualifications of candidates . . . today no more."

The Filipino electorate also did not escape from her tongue-lashing.

"Filipinos don't take their elections seriously . . . We think of it as entertainment," she said.

Filipinos are not like other Asians, who are introspective, according to Santiago.

"They (Filipinos) will not listen to a serious political discussion. You try to be serious and they will walk out on you. If you attack someone, they enjoy it," she said. *With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Marie Carisa Ordinario, Mae Lorraine Rafols and Rosary Diane Baytion*

Gov't snubbed 'perpetual power plant'?

(From page A1)

President Fidel Ramos in Malacañang during 1992-93 as the country was suffering from blackouts.

Labador, 39, said he was told to see then Energy Secretary Delfin Lazaro. "But I never heard from them again," he told a media forum here Tuesday.

The Cordillera inventor said he was dismayed to find out that the Ramos administration proceeded to sign contracts with independent power producers (IPP) because it "lost" the plans for the self-energizing power plant.

The power plant system uses mechanical gear and magnets to generate a "perpetual" gyrating system that can supply a whole village with up to one megawatt of electricity, according to Labador.

"A prototype would have cost the government no more than P1.5 million. It is not a large facility. And I have designs good for every Filipino household that can keep it energized for a long time without wasting power, and which is a more long-term solution compared with the (IPP contracts)," he said.

He said the government was more concerned about the billions of pesos involved in the IPP contracts.

Labador is the president of the Cordillera Inventors and Scientists Association (CISA) whose 16 multinational members here have been lobbying for clearer state policies protecting Filipino inventions.

About 50 of these inventions have been field tested for application in mining, vegetable farming, power and even *tilapia* raising.

"Government has been concentrated in technology transfer, foreign technology that is transplanted and introduced to Filipinos. They failed to tap local technologies, encouraging inventors to go abroad with these inventions," Labador said.

He said ignoring local ingenuity had been costing taxpayers a lot of money.

The National Power Corp. now owes the IPPs to the tune of P800 billion. IPPs are private contractors who built their own facilities to help stave off the Luzon-wide black outs that plagued the country in 1992.

IPP contracts oblige Napocor to buy electricity generated by the IPP plants at prohibitive prices.

IPP-generated electricity represents 33 percent of the power that Napocor distributes to households through power retailers, but only 40 to 50 percent of that is actually consumed, according to Napocor president Jesus Alcordo.

Labador said the treatment he received from the Ramos administration was a portent of how the government would treat inventors from the provinces.

Labador noted that the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) had used only 14.87 percent of its P166 million grants-in-aid. But most of the money was spent on science fairs, foreign tours and inventors' conferences.

The inventor said the fund was tapped exclusively by members of the Philippine Inventors Society Inc., some of whom were sent abroad in junkets using taxpayers' money.

Labador said the inequity was hurting many veteran inventors like Ibaloi Ingkong Paleng, who died recently without having availed himself of government incentives to propagate his special sprinkler system that is applicable to the farming terrain in the Cordillera.

"Three inventors have already died without tasting the benefits of government grants. I do not intend to die that way. I intend to fight (for these incentives)," Labador said.

Rogelio Ladilad, DOST regional director, said the agency was doing something to help the Cordillera people.

Ladilad said he helped organize a Cordillera energy research and development consortium that seeks to explore the Cordillera's vast potential for hydroelectric power.

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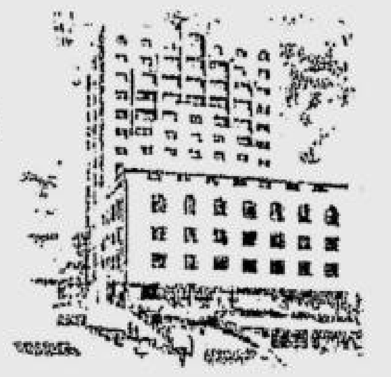

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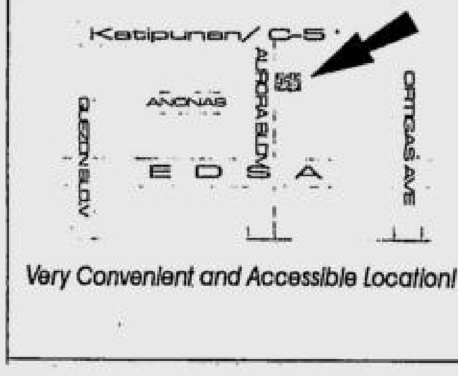

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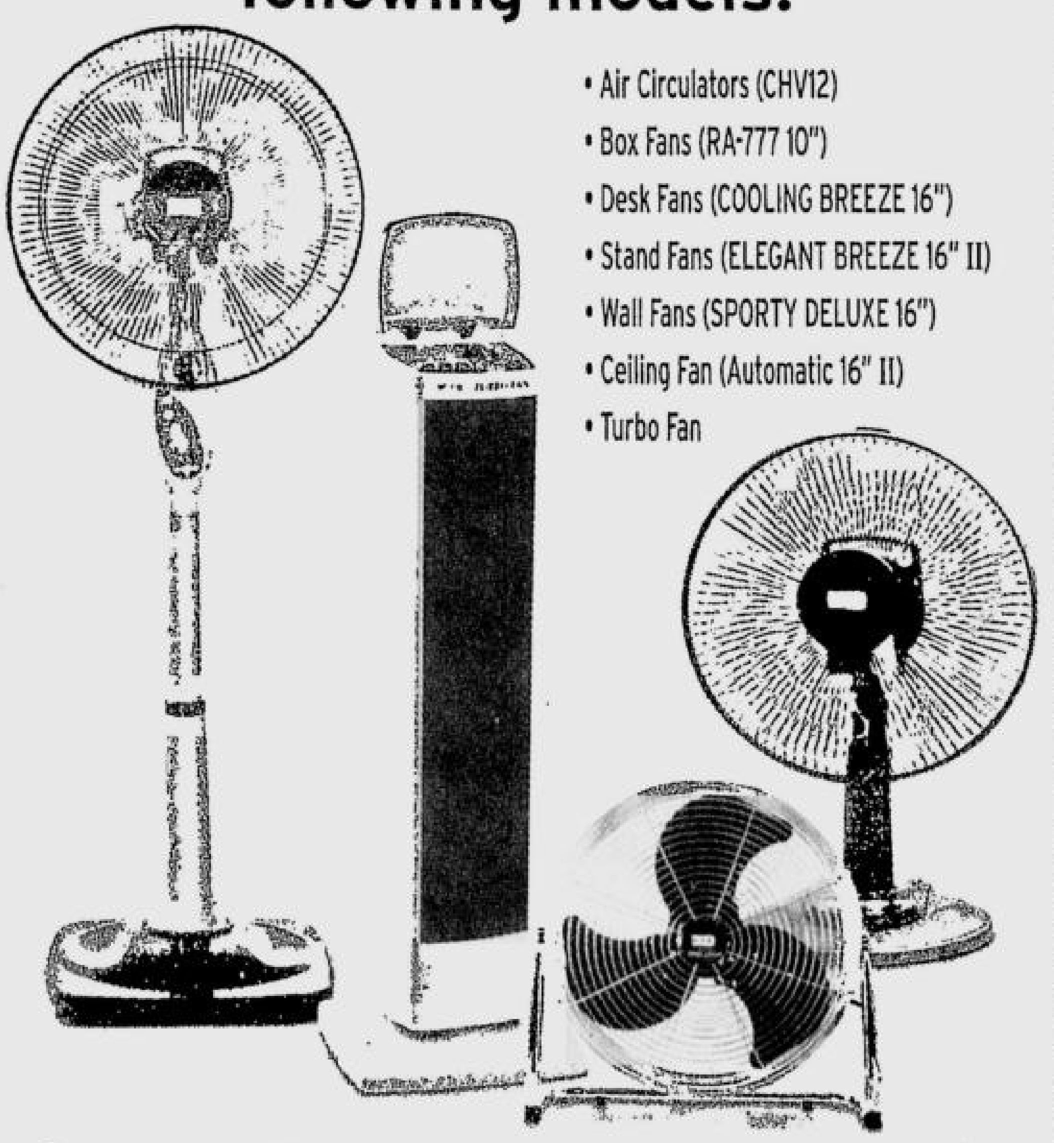

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FRENCH OPEN

Agassi, Capriati beat foes; V. Williams upset

PARIS—Andre Agassi opened his campaign for a second consecutive Grand Slam title on Tuesday, beating Sweden's Thomas Johansson 6-2, 6-3, 7-6 (5) in the first round of the French Open.

Agassi, the 1999 champion, closed out the match with a ripping forehand pass to take only his second win on clay this year.

"Every day is different here," said Agassi. "It's all about making sure that you are physically and mentally ready."

"It's not easy, but it never has been."

The 31-year-old Agassi, seeded third here, is playing his 13th French Open. He lost in the second round last year. He took the year's first Grand Slam, winning the Australian Open in January.

Also trying to win a second Grand Slam in a row was Jennifer Capriati, who beat France's Emilie Loit 6-2, 7-5 in her opener.

The fourth-seeded American climbed back from 5-2 down in the second set to level at 5-5. She then overtook her 81st-ranked opponent, despite serving seven double-faults on her way to the win in one hour and five minutes.

No. 2 Marat Safin tried to kick-start his season with a 6-3, 6-3, 6-7(6), 6-1 win over Austrian Markus Hipfl.

The 21-year-old Russian is the reigning US Open champion but has not gotten past the second round in this year's first five Masters Series events, second in importance only to Grand Slams.

Safin has been hampered by a back injury since February, but has continued to play major tournaments—by his own admission, to avoid losing money.

Spaniard Carlos Moya, who won the title in 1998 but is unseeded this year, cruised to a straight-set win over countryman Feliciano Lopez.

No. 17 Sandrine Testud advanced to the second round Tuesday, defeating American Dawn Buth 6-1, 6-1.

Top-seeded Martina Hingis was to begin her quest for the one Grand Slam title that eludes her against Spain's Gala Leon Garcia, ranked 35th in the world.

Hingis could face Capriati in the semifinals. The 25-year-old Capriati is enjoying the comeback of her career after taking her first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in January.

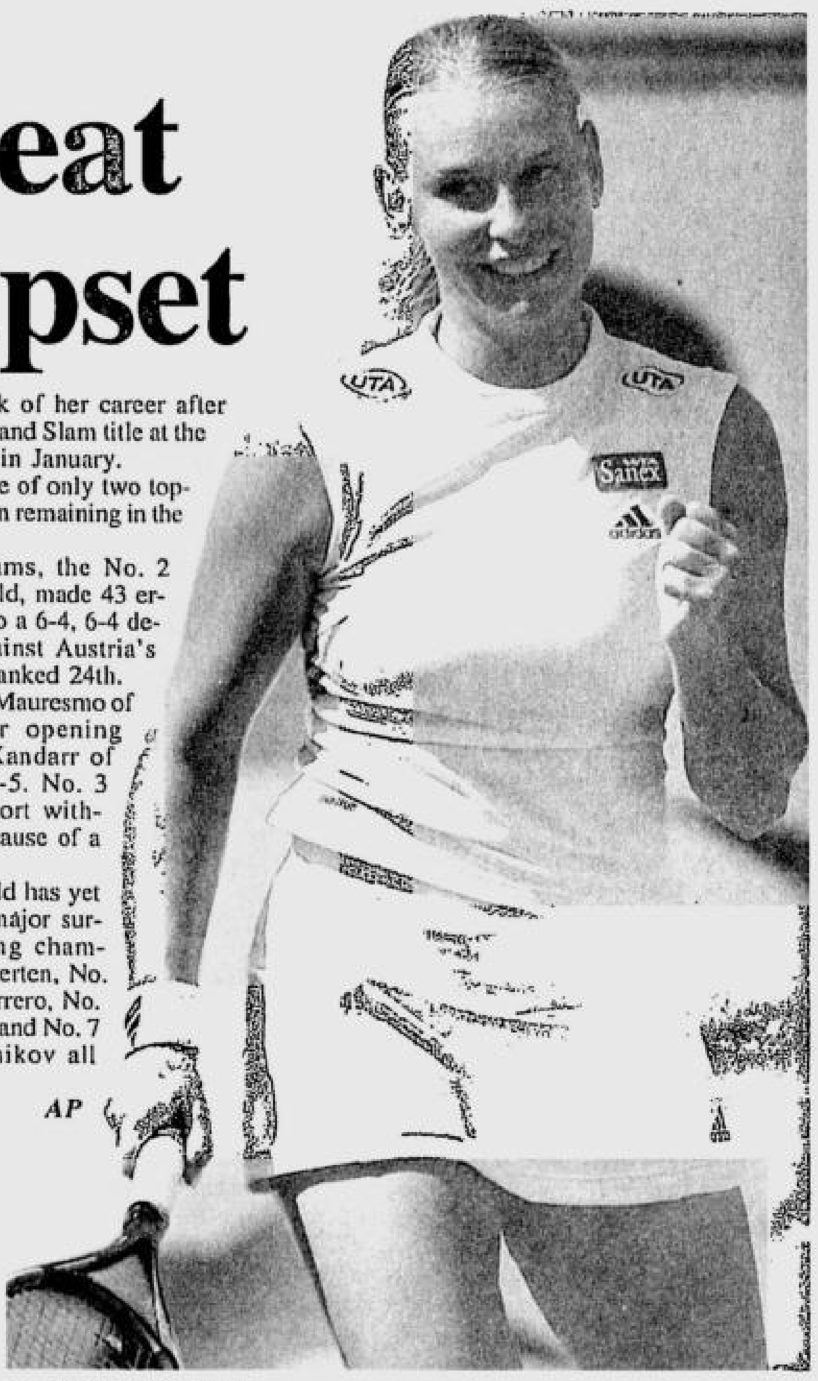
Now she is one of only two top-five seeded women remaining in the draw.

Venus Williams, the No. 2 player in the world, made 43 errors on her way to a 6-4, 6-4 defeat Monday against Austria's Barbara Schett, ranked 24th.

No. 5 Amelie Mauresmo of France lost her opening match to Jana Kandarr of Germany 7-5, 7-5. No. 3 Lindsay Davenport withdrew Sunday because of a knee injury.

The men's field has yet to produce any major surprises. Defending champion Gustavo Kuerten, No. 4 Juan Carlos Ferrero, No. 6 Lleyton Hewitt and No. 7 Yevgeny Kafelnikov all have advanced.

AP



SCHETT: Giant killer.

AP

Lickliter wins Kemper by 1 shot

POTOMAC, Maryland—Frank Lickliter nearly blew a three-stroke lead with three holes to play before saving par with a 2.4-meter (8-foot) putt at the final hole Monday for a one-shot victory over J.J. Henry at the rain-delayed Kemper Open.

Lickliter and Henry were the overnight co-leaders at 16-under after storms suspended play Sunday evening, but Lickliter pulled away Monday morning with birdies at the 12th and 14th holes, while Henry lost a shot at 16.

But Lickliter also bogeyed the 16th after putting his drive in the rough, then bogeyed 17 after missing a 1.2-meter (4-foot) putt for par. His second shot at 18 found the rough left of the green, but he chipped to set up the par putt to save the victory.

AP

Saulog tops Albay 'moto'

DARAGA, Albay—Seven-time national champion Jovie Saulog of Shell Advance Racing Team rediscovered his old deadly form to turn back Glen Aguilar twice in as many races and rule the Caltex Revtex-sponsored invitational motocross championships here Sunday.

Riding a brand-new 4-stroke revolutionary machine Yamaha YZ250F, Saulog swept the pro open and pro 125 categories before a big, appreciative crowd in this one-day event held as part of the "Magayon Festival."

The twin victories by Saulog underscored the team's dominance in this thrilling motorcycle sport for the past two decades.

Aguilar, the Caltex Revtex rider, settled for second place in both races.

Gregorio "Yoyong" Buncio expressed satisfaction over Saulog's remarkable performance despite the strong opposition from Aguilar and several other local-based riders.

"Jovie is really exceptional during the race. He proved once again that he is still the best motocross rider in the country despite his age," said Buncio.

"By winning twice over Aguilar, Jovie also proved that his YZ250F can overrule even an open class motorbike," added Buncio.

Buncio also edited the all-out support of Aben Marketing, YRS Motorcycle Modifications, JMS and Monsky Enterprises.

RP jr. touring series at Subic

CARLO Pastor of Team TEC try to extend his winning streak in the fifth and sixth rounds of the Shell Helix Philippine Junior Touring Car Series at the Subic International Raceway this weekend.

Pastor dominated the first four round held alternately in Subic and the Batangas Racing Circuit to emerge as the undisputed leader in this 12-part series sponsored by Shell Helix.

Overall, Pastor has a perfect score of 60 points after two legs under the 15-12-10-8-6 scoring system used by the organizing committee.

A far second overall is Carlos Anton of MP Turbo with 48 points built on three runner-up and one third-place finishes.

Rounding out the top five participants were Alex Padua of MP Turbo with 30 points; George Apacible of MP Turbo with 28 points; and Enzo Pastor of Team TEC with 22 points.

Swim team to KL

SWIMMING sensations Luica Dacanay and Jenny Guerrero will lead the national team competing in the 25th Southeast Asia Age Group Swimming Championship in Kuala Lumpur from June 1-3.

Countries entered are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Dacanay, who holds the Philippine record in the 50-meter butterfly and 50m backstroke, will swim in the 15-17 age group where she will take part in the50m fly, 50m back, 100m fly, 100m back, 200m fly, 200m back and 200-400 individual medley.

Guerrero, owner of the national mark in the 100-200 breast, will also compete in the 15-17 age group with seven events: 50m breast, 50m free, 100m breast, 100m free, 200m breast and 200-400 IM.

Others in the team are Lynette Ang, Gerard Bordado, Mars Danila, Evan Grabador, Veronica Manotok, Louie Marquez, Benjamin Uy, Nhemia Velasco and Jonathan Villagracia.

Ryuzo Ishikawa will take the coaching chores while Ike Buan is the assistant coach. *Senen Bravo*

SPORTS ON TV

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TENNIS. WTA Italian Open Finals at 2:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

2001 French Open - Day 3 Elimination at 5 p.m. (r - tomorrow at 1 a.m.) on SkyCable 17

MOTOR SPORTS: Max Power at 6 p.m. on Star Sports

2001 F1 World Championships - Monaco Grand Prix at 9:45 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

WHAT CAN I SAY

Bebo Quiros

Curragh double

THIRTY miles south west of Dublin, Ireland is the Curragh of Kildare. It is a broad limestone plain bounded by the towns of Newbridge and Kildare and bisected by the Dublin-Cork road. The southern portion of the plain is home to the Irish Army and is known as the Curragh Camp. The northern portion is almost completely dominated by the Curragh racecourse, known simply all over the racing world as "The Curragh". The word "Curragh" means "horses' course" in Gaelic. For all intents and purposes, this horses' course is the home of Irish flat racing.

Over the weekend, history was made at the Curragh. The Aidan O'Brien stable completed a unique double, winning both the Entenmann's Irish 2000 Guineas on Saturday, 26th May, and the Entenmann's Irish 1000 Guineas on Sunday, 27 May. Aidan O'Brien is Ireland's top trainer. He is part of a triumvirate composed of himself, John Magnier and Michael Tabor, the prime moving force behind the world's largest stallion stations, known collectively as Coolmore with stud farms located in Ireland, America and Australia.

Saturday's 2000 Guineas was bagged by the 20-1 outsider Black Minnaloushe. Owned by Mrs. John Magnier and Michael Tabor, the three-yr-old colt, by Storm Cat - Coral Dance by Green Dancer, raced mid-pack all throughout the early going, rallied along the rail upon hitting the stretch, and won by two lengths in 1:41 for the Curragh mile. Stablemates Mozart, who set the pace until the final furlong and race favorite, Minardi, came in second and third for a one-two-three finish for the O'Brien team. It was the first Irish 2000 Guineas for jockey Johnny Murtaugh.

It did not play out as perfectly on Sunday for the O'Brien team. His ladies team could only manage first and third for the 1000 Guineas. Hey, five out of six places can't be bad for a couple of days work. Again, a 16-1 outsider did the trick for the home team. Imagine, a 3-yr-old filly by Sadler's Wells—Doff the Derby by Master Derby, owned solely by Mrs. John Magnier, beat the favorite Crystal Music, by two lengths in 1:41 over a yielding Curragh mile. O'Brien trained Toroca came in a far-beaten third for a fantastic one-three finish.

This is the second clean sweep of Ireland's first two classecs for the O'Brien stables. The trainer from Ballydoyle did it four years ago with Classic Park and Desert King. Just to prove the age-old adage that blood will tell, Black Minnaloushe is a half-brother to English 2000 Guineas winner Pennekamp (by Bering) while Imagine is three-parts sister to English and Irish Derby winner, Generous (by Caerleon). Both head over the pond, Imagine for the Vodafone English Oaks two weekends from now, and Black Minnaloushe for the St. James Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot later in June.

With Imagine's victory in the Guineas, her sire, Sadler's Wells, has rewritten the record books. Imagine is his 46th individual group 1 winner, overtaking the New Zealand-based Sir Tristram, who held the previous record of 45. Since his first crop turned three twelve years ago, he has been champion sire ten times and runner-up twice. Of Sadler's Wells, Tony Morris, well-respected British pedigree expert has this to say: "He is the one by which all other stallions of his era are measured, and will be measured for years to come"

J. V. ONGPIN CUP ENTRIES

Name of Horse	Age	Sex/ Color	Weight (kgs)	Jockey	Owner/Trainer Breeder
1. Batangas Entry	3	M/DB	55	PR Dilema	Paulo D. Mendoza/ Rodolfo G. Mendoza/ A. B. L. Santos
(Pedigree: Piker—Because Milady/Earnings to-date: P608,463 10)					
2. Deputy Royale	3	F/B	53	RC Sanchez	F. R. Charvet/ R. B. Clor/ Danilo M. Montemayor
(Deputy Chairman—Tashawong / P609,851.14)					
3. Gifted Guest	3	M/B	55	EF Salvador	R. C. Monsalve/ B. A. Falcon, Jr./ Jose Cacho
(Sal's Shuttle—Gifted Dancer / P1,005,747.96)					
4. Gutmoore	3	F/CH	53	JT Zarate	J. M. A. Franco/ J. C. Sordan/ Leonardo M. Javier,Jr.
(Gut Feel—Hannah Moore / P1,317,738.20)					
5. Hammerhead	3	F/CH	53	PC Basco	R. C. Arceo/ R. M. Domingo/ Manuel G. Viray
(Heza Gone West—Vice Shy / P1,146,896.57)					
6. Ilocandia Slew	3	F/DB	53	FM Raquel	R. M. Bunag/ N. E. Manalang/ Jason S. Lim
(Almaam—Seode / P1,145,708.32)					
7. Kitty Hawk	3	F/B	53	JM Ladiana	F. B. Trillana, Jr. A. G. Abobo/ Jose Y. Quiros
(Hawk Attack—Siete Legues / P100,000.00)					
8. Lord of All	3	M/CH	55	ES de Vera	M. V. Tirona/ M. C. R. Macaraig/ Mesaland Dev. Corp.
(Khozaam—Sassy / P442,208.94)					
9. Silver Rose	3	F/B	53	E C Guce	Marc John D. Tionloc/ Alfredo G. Abobo/ Jose Y. Quiros
(Conquistarose—Silver Whip / P244,202.89)					
10. Silver Story	3	M/GR	55	JB Hernandez	Patrick P. Uy/ R. P. Paman, Jr/ Juanito Y. Tionloc
(Conquistarose—Northern Edge / P4,219,509.57)					
11. Sky Hawk	3	F/B	53	JD Camu	A.B. L. Santos/ J. G. Diaz/ Augusto Benedicto Santos
(Piker—Corralera / P954,389.32)					
12. Staunch Ally	3	M/B	55	DH Borbe, Jr.	A. G. Puyat/ J. C. Sordan/ Aristeo G. Puyat
(Gut Feel—Staunch Flame / P213,540.82)					
13. Tumataginting	3	F/B	53	EB Pacampara	H. S. Esguerra/ R. R. Henson/ Manuel G. Viray
(El Raggaas—Mogamboette / P862,340.15)					

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5J - 563	Daily	0900	1010
5J - 565	Daily	1100	1210
5J - 567	Daily	1300	1410
5J - 569	Daily	1500	1610
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FLT NO	FREQ	ETD	ETA
5J-558	Daily	0350	0500
5J - 560	Daily	0700	0810
5J - 562	Daily	0900	1010
5J - 564	Daily	1100	1210
5J - 566	Daily	1300	1410
5J - 568	Daily	1500	1610
5J - 570	Daily	1700	1810
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Abenson opens Gen. Trias, Cavite and Biñan, Laguna branches

ABENSON is definitely on a roll, adding two new branches to its ever expanding network.

Abenson-Cavite opened in Gen. Trias last April 28, 2001 (inside Waltermart). City officials, guests and the locals graced the occasion. It was a fun-filled day for the Caviteños as Abenson kicked off with a motorcade, food samplings, balloons and giveaways. Abenson also held a raffle draw for everyone who visited the store. Caviteños will definitely enjoy this new appliance shopping destination.

May 16 marked another grand day for Abenson as it opened its 39th branch at Olivares Plaza in Biñan, Laguna. A store blessing started the special day and was later opened to the Laguna shoppers, with discounts, premiums and a free raffle draw.

With its new branches, Abenson once again fulfilled its mission of bringing the good life closer to the Filipino homes. And with its fresh, bigger and better store concepts, Filipinos are sure to enjoy the renowned appliance shopping experience.

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Alabang, tels. 850-88-48 to 50; **Ever Ortigas**, 656-6643 to 47; **Farmers Cubao**, 911-1071; **Alabang Filinvest, Festival Mall**, 850-3775 or 79; **Grand Central, Kalookan**, 363-5246/383-5338; **Harrison Plaza**, 521-8568/69; **Jaka, Sucat**, 829-2686/88; **Las Piñas**, 872-0576/77; **Mandaluyong**, 631-5188/631-8161 to 64; **Metropolis, Muntinlupa**, 809-8172/74; **Pearl Plaza, Tambo, Parañaque**, 851-8401 to 05; **Quad 1 Makati**, 812-6748/816-3911; **Regalado, Fairview**, 937-5911; **Robinsons Ermita**, 536-8029/536-7914; **Robinsons Galleria**, 632-9101 to 05; **Rustan's Cubao**, 911-2312/13; **Shangri-la Plaza**, 638-8017 to 19; **SM City Carpark**, 920-9151 to 53/926-8829; **Unimart-Greenhills**, 721-0590/84; **Waltermart-Pasong Tamo**, 813-4444/894-3730; **Waltermart-E. Rodriguez**, 724-2528; **Fiesta World Mall-Lipa, Batangas**, (043) 404-1657/(043) 404-1655; **Meycauayan, Bulacan**, (044) 228-2117; **Carmona, Cavite**, (046)430-2702 to 04; **Lotus Mall-Imus, Cavite**, (046)515-5749; **Gen.Trias, Cavite**, (046)419-1150; **Robinsons-Imus**, (046)471-8020/30; **Rosario, Cavite**, (046)438-5450; **Waltermart-Dasmarinas, Cavite**, (046)416-2104; **Olivares Mall-Binan, Laguna**, (049)241-2651; **Pavillion Mall-Binan, Laguna**, (049) 411-4510/11; **San Pablo, Laguna**, (049) 562 8242; **Waltermart-Calamba**, (049)545-7035; Waltermart-Sta. Rosa, Laguna, (049)549-1243; **Cainta, Sta.Lucia 1**, 645-0402/04; **Cainta 2, Sta.Lucia 3**, 681-5301 to 05; and **Luisita, Tarlac**, (045) 985-1278.

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SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Sparks nip Comets in opener

HOUSTON—Latasha Byears scored 15 points, including a clinching layup with four seconds left, to lead the Los Angeles Sparks to a season-opening 66-63 victory Monday over the four-time WNBA champion Houston Comets. The Comets, playing without superstars Cynthia Cooper (retired) and Sheryl Swoopes (injured), still made a game of it, pulling within 64-63 with 1:06 to play. *AP*

BAP polls will be fair, says Puyat

PUYAT

ACTING Basketball Association of the Philippines president Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat yesterday assured that the elections on June 7 will be clean, fair and conducted based on the BAP's original constitution and by-laws.

Puyat issued the statement to assuage the fears of the breakaway group led by Quintellano Literal that it would not get a fair deal in the Philippine Olympic Committee-sanctioned elections set at the Manila Bank Penthouse in Makati.

"Contrary to Literal's claims, every (BAP) director who voted in February 2000 when (Freddie) Jalasco and myself were elected to a four-year term by acclamation will participate in the elections," Puyat said.

The BAP sent out notices of the election-meeting to 29 directors last May 7, 30 days before the elections.

In a resolution dated March 28, 2001, the POC ordered the BAP group headed by Jalasco to conduct elections not later than June 30 this year using the same electorate that voted Jalasco and Puyat into office in February 2000.

Puyat appealed to Literal to help end the basketball problem by "submitting himself to a legitimate election rather than keep mouting lies."

"Literal claimed he was elected overwhelmingly four times by (BAP) directors," Puyat said. "But we all know that these elections were illegal and held not in accordance with out constitution and by-laws. Now that a legal election has been scheduled, Literal should participate instead of questioning the venue and seeking a court order to stop the election."

Only two positions will be at stake during the June 7 polls—the chairmanship and the presidency. Puyat is seeking the presidency he has yielded to Jalasco in 1995.

Puyat recalled that since former BAP secretary general Graham Lim illegally called the first of four elections last December 22, the country's amateur basketball program has suffered a big blackeye.

"The POC Arbitration Commission tried to settle the problem by calling the parties concerned (Jalasco and Literal) to a meeting. Both parties submitted their respective position papers and agreed to abide by the (AC's) decision. But after the POC declared Literal's election illegal and continued to recognize Jalasco, Literal went to court and sued the POC," Puyat explained.

Tiny gets eviction order

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission has given Quinteliano "Tiny" Literal and his associates until tomorrow to vacate the Basketball Association of the Philippines office inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

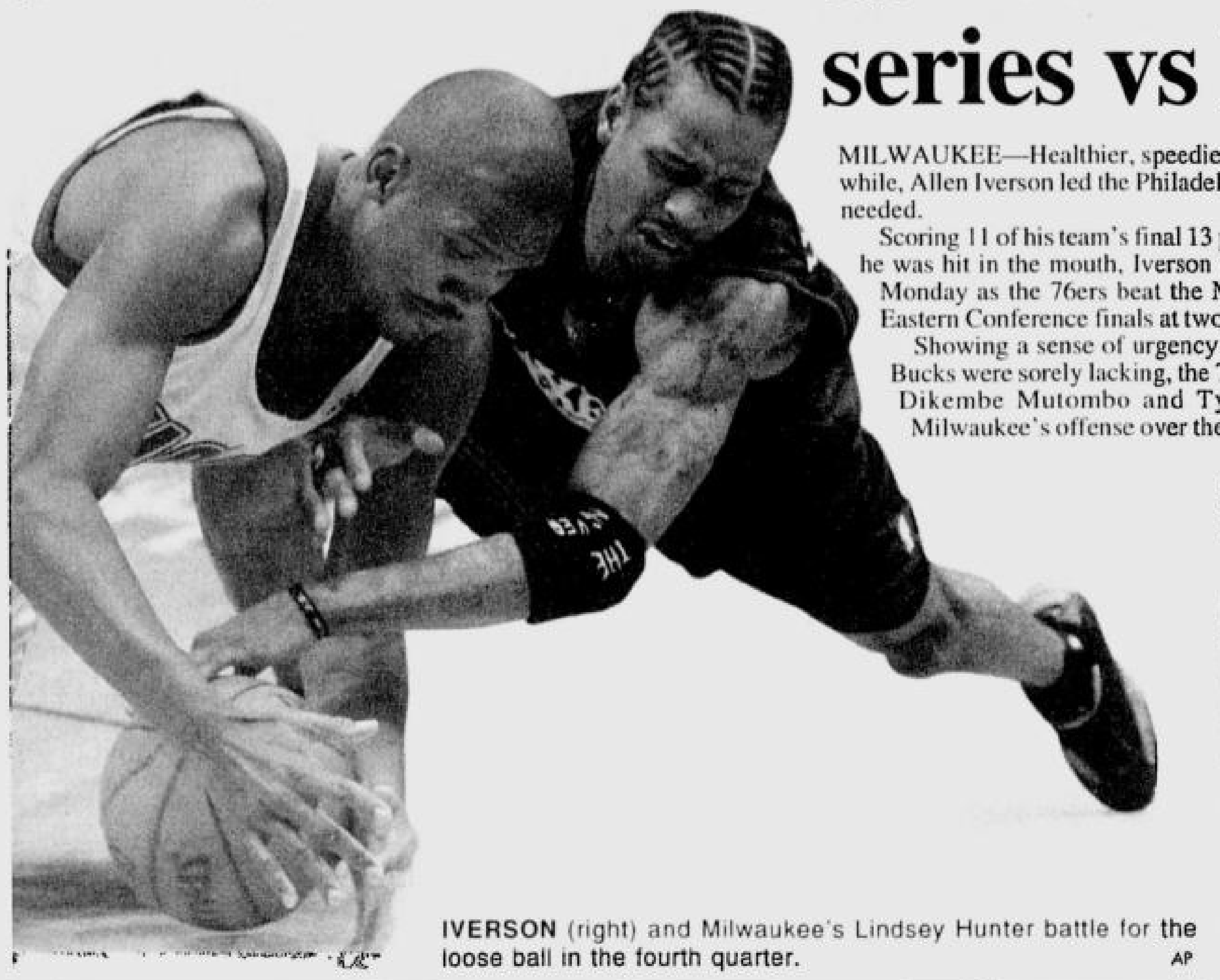
In a letter sent to Literal, the PSC said it would deny the group free use of the BAP office until a new set of officers had been sworn in.

It added that only the duly elected officers of the BAP have the right to occupy the office space located at the second floor of the PSC administration building.

The PSC has taken cognizance of the advice made by the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, recommending that PSC assistance should extend only to elected BAP officers recognized by the Philippine Olympic Committee.

"The PSC should be made available only to the officers who may be elected on the 7th of June 2001 meeting of the BAP and who will be recognized by the POC," Amado Valdez, chief of the OGCC, stated in his letter to the PSC.

Iverson delivers as 76ers level series vs Bucks



IVERSON (right) and Milwaukee's Lindsey Hunter battle for the loose ball in the fourth quarter. AP

MILWAUKEE—Healthier, speedier and bloodier than he has been in a while, Allen Iverson led the Philadelphia 76ers to a win they desperately needed.

Scoring 11 of his team's final 13 points, including seven in a row after he was hit in the mouth, Iverson was the MVP of the fourth quarter Monday as the 76ers beat the Milwaukee Bucks, 89-83, to tie the Eastern Conference finals at two games apiece.

Showing a sense of urgency and a sense of desperation that the Bucks were sorely lacking, the 76ers also got big contributions from Dikembe Mutombo and Tyrone Hill while shutting down Milwaukee's offense over the final eight minutes.

Iverson, who sat out Game 3 with a sore left hip joint, missed 10 straight shots at one point and finished 10-for-32 from the field for 28 points. He scored 11 in the fourth quarter.

The 76ers held the Bucks to just one basket over a nearly seven-minute stretch of the final quarter. Milwaukee fans booed the home team as they left the court, frustrated by yet another display of the Bucks poor playing despite having a chance to take control of a playoff series.

Philadelphia's victory ensured that the NBA Finals will not start until June 6—meaning the Western Conference champion Los Angeles Lakers will have had 10 days between games.

Of much more immediate importance is the outcome of this series, which is now essentially a best-of-three that resumes Wednesday night (Thursday morning in Manila) at Philadelphia.

Iverson played the entire game except for the final 16 seconds of the third quarter and had eight assists, five rebounds and two steals. Mutombo had 17 points, 15 rebounds and four blocks, and Hill—whose father is seriously ill in a Cincinnati hospital—added 14 points.

Glenn Robinson, who led the Bucks with 20 points, was ejected for drawing two technicals with 58 seconds left. *AP*

Mobiline taps ex-Wolverine

Game Saturday:
(People's Center, Balanga, Bataan)
4 p.m.—Red Bull vs Alaska

JEROD Ward will be Mobiline's import in the PBA Commissioner's Cup starting on Saturday in Bataan.

Mobiline coach Louie Alas said the 6-foot-7 former University of Michigan Wolverine had been signed up and will be arriving on Friday to join the Phone Pals scrimmage.

Named the best high school player in the United States in 1995, the 27-year-old Ward played for the LA Stars in the American Basketball Association last year and averaged 21 points per game.

Ward's ascension to the NBA was stalled due to an assortment of injuries.

Alas said he'd seen Ward play and is confident that he'd be able to jell with the Phone Pals.

Meanwhile, NBA veterans David Wood and Jason Sasser passed the height test yesterday along with seven other imports.

Wood, who played for eight squads in the NBA, was measured at 6-foot-7. A prized-find of Pop Cola coach Chot Reyes in the United States, Sasser checked in at 6-foot-4 and a half, half an inch taller than Shell's Juaquin Hawkins.

Comebacking Ansu Sesay, Sta. Lucia's prime reason in making its first Finals appearance last year, was the tallest in the field at 6-feet-7-1/4. Ryan Fletcher returns for Barangay Ginebra.

San Miguel, the reigning All Filipino Cup champion, recruited unknown Nate Johnson, who measured 6-foot-4 5/8, while traditional power Alaska settled for an untested talent in Terrance Badgett. *Roy Luarca*

Martin Cup knockout games today

Games today:
12 noon—Mapua vs Ateneo (Jrs); 1:30 p.m.—Adamson vs Xavier (Jrs); 3 p.m.—SSC vs UE (Srs); 4:30 p.m.—Jose Rizal vs FEU (Srs)

THE TOP four senior and top four junior teams in the 7th Fr. Martin Cup invitational basketball tournament figure today in knockout semifinal matches at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City.

It will be the San Sebastian Stags against the University of the East Warriors at 3 p.m. and the Far Eastern University Tamaraws against the Jose Rizal University Heavy Bombers at 4:30 in the senior contests of the cagefest sponsored by Agfa, Photo Plus, Red Bull and Smart-Piltel.

The junior games pit the Mapua Red Robins against the Ateneo Blue Eaglets at 12 noon and the Adamson Baby Falcons against the Xavier School Stallions at 1:30 p.m.

Coach Arturo Valenzona's Stags outsteadied the UST Tigers, 77-71, last Sunday to finish on top of Group A with seven wins against one loss.

LA remains a hungry team

LOS ANGELES—Shaquille O'Neal has time for his sprained left ankle to heal. Kobe Bryant will have a chance to polish up his no-look lobs. Derek Fisher can practice 3-pointers, and Rick Fox's long locks will grow shaggier.

Waiting a week or more for their NBA Finals opponent to emerge from the Eastern Conference, the Los Angeles Lakers may become even more scary.

Bryant believes the Lakers can still play better.

"We have a lot of room for improvement, offensively and defensively," he said. Having steamrolled the San Antonio Spurs in what many saw as the match-up of the NBA's two best teams, the Lakers remain hungry. *AP*

'Billiards Salon'

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

READER J.L. Banguis, an avid billiards fan from Intercity Homes in Cupang, Muntinlupa City, wrote us to bat for a first ever "Billiards Salon" in the Philippines. Methinks this is an idea worth passing on to the country's pool aficionados led by brothers Jose "Popit" and Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, Philippine billiards' eternal benefactors. Because there is no permanent venue exclusively for the sport, all major billiards tournaments here and even those in the United States are held in rented coliseums, casino resort-hotels and shopping malls. That's why I wholeheartedly agree with Mr. Banguis' proposal. In his letter, Banguis said in part:

"Wouldn't it be a wonderful world for billiards enthusiasts and a pride for every Filipino if we have a premier billiards salon which we can claim to be the only one in the world?" Aside from being a showcase for blow-up action pictures, including interesting and informative photos showing the early stages of the game, Banguis added, "Not only could it be the venue for national and international competitions among cue artists, but it could be a training center for future billiards "magicians" who would otherwise be pushing drugs than cue sticks."

He also said, "It is not farfetched to guess that the richest living Filipino sports figure today is Efren "Bata" Reyes. Money is just pouring into his lap from several and different sources. But that cannot be forever. Fame is fickle. And Time is moving fast."

Continuing, Banguis likewise cautioned, "Soon, maybe not tomorrow, but soon, very few, if any, would remember Efren "Bata" Reyes. We have seen innumerable Filipino greats who became "kings" in the past only to wind up back on square one. This is my reason for addressing this to you."

In ending his well-meaning letter, Banguis said, "Please take it upon yourself to convince Efren now to erect his own monument, something like calling it "Efren's Friends."

Properly handled, it could also be a profitable venture. There are so many kindred spirits, I'm sure, who will be willing to lend Efren a hand."

* * *

PBA OWES PSC P1.5M? It is widely known that the Philippine Basketball Association is composed of the country's richest and most profitable business corporations. Yet how come it is reported as being unable to settle its obligations amounting to P1.5 million in rental fees to the Philippine Sports Commission? *Paki-esplika lang po.*

Recall that last year, the PBA was also in arrears with its payments to the Games and Amusements Board of its lawful share of income from radio and television rights dating back to December 1999. The accumulated obligations totaled P4.8 million. However, GAB Chair Dominador Cepeda Jr. explained that the PBA has been partly complying with its obligations. "Pretty soon," Cepeda said, "we hope the full amount would be settled. *Kahit na hulugan.*"

That the wealthy PBA is unable to settle its obligations promptly to the GAB and to the PSC is hard to believe. But then, that seems to be the sad truth.

Ana freezes GIV, faces Welcoat next

By Dennis U. Eroa

ANA Freezers chilled GIV Beauty Soap, 87-73, and arranged a crucial showdown with defending champion Welcoat Paints in the PBL Chairman's Cup quarterfinals last night at the Makati Coliseum.

Merciless and methodical, Ana was in complete command of the one-sided game as it recovered from a two-game losing streak.

The Freezer Kings improved their record to 7-3, same slate of the Paintmasters, whom they will meet tomorrow for the twice-to-beat incentive in the carryover semis.

Shark (9-2) is already assured of the twice-to-beat privilege.

In a massive show of firepower, Paul Artadi, Dondon Mendoza, Ronald Tubid, Ariel Capus, Roland Pascual and skipper Rey Mendez all finished in double-figures for Ana, which never relinquished a 23-15 first-quarter lead.

Earlier, Aries Dimaunahan buried a triple with 11 seconds remaining as Montaña Pawnshop closed with a 60-58 win over PharmaQuick.

In the Crystal Spring PYBL Cup, defending champion Boysen-MLQU turned back Regent Cheeseballs, 65-61, for its second straight win in the quarterfinals.

Scores:

ANA 87—Pascual 19, Capus 16, Mendoza 14, Mendez 11, Artadi 10, De Castro 2, R. Mendoza 2, Torres 0, Flores 0.

GIV 73—Bacani 20, Billones 15, Legaspi 11, De la Cuesta 10, Prior 4, Gumatay 4, Calo 3, Roldan 2, Peña 2, Quiambao 0, Codamon 0.

Quarters: 23-15, 42-36, 63-51, 87-73.

'Blitz 3' format hit

By June Navarro

IMAGINE this: Alex Compton drained a triple to give the Batangas Blades the upperhand, 62-60, barely three seconds left in Game 7 of the MBA Finals against the Negros Slashers.

Pivotman John Ferriols inbounded underneath the basket and rifled a pass to a streaking Maui Huelar, who drilled in a basket point-blank.

The Slashers captured the title, 63-62, as the Blades could only shake their heads in disbelief.

Such would be one of the rare disgruntling scenarios that teams will encounter once the Blitz 3 format gets incorporated into the MBA league rules.

Nash Racela, head coach of the Batangas Blades, has this in mind when he aired his reservations for the Blitz 3 format, which will be applied in the league starting on Sunday when the MBA opens.

"Every possession is very important in the endgame. If the Blitz 3 rule is applied in the entirety of the match especially during crunch time, it would certainly change the complexion of the game," said Nash, a younger brother of Olsen Racela, San Miguel Beer's court general in the PBA.

A brainchild of the MBA commissioners' office, the Blitz 3 rule gives three points to a team which converts a basket within the first four seconds of its possession anywhere on the floor.

Ecija ready to defy odds

ON paper, the Nueva Ecija Patriots appear to be shallow in manpower and firepower. Coach Jojo Villa would readily admit that.

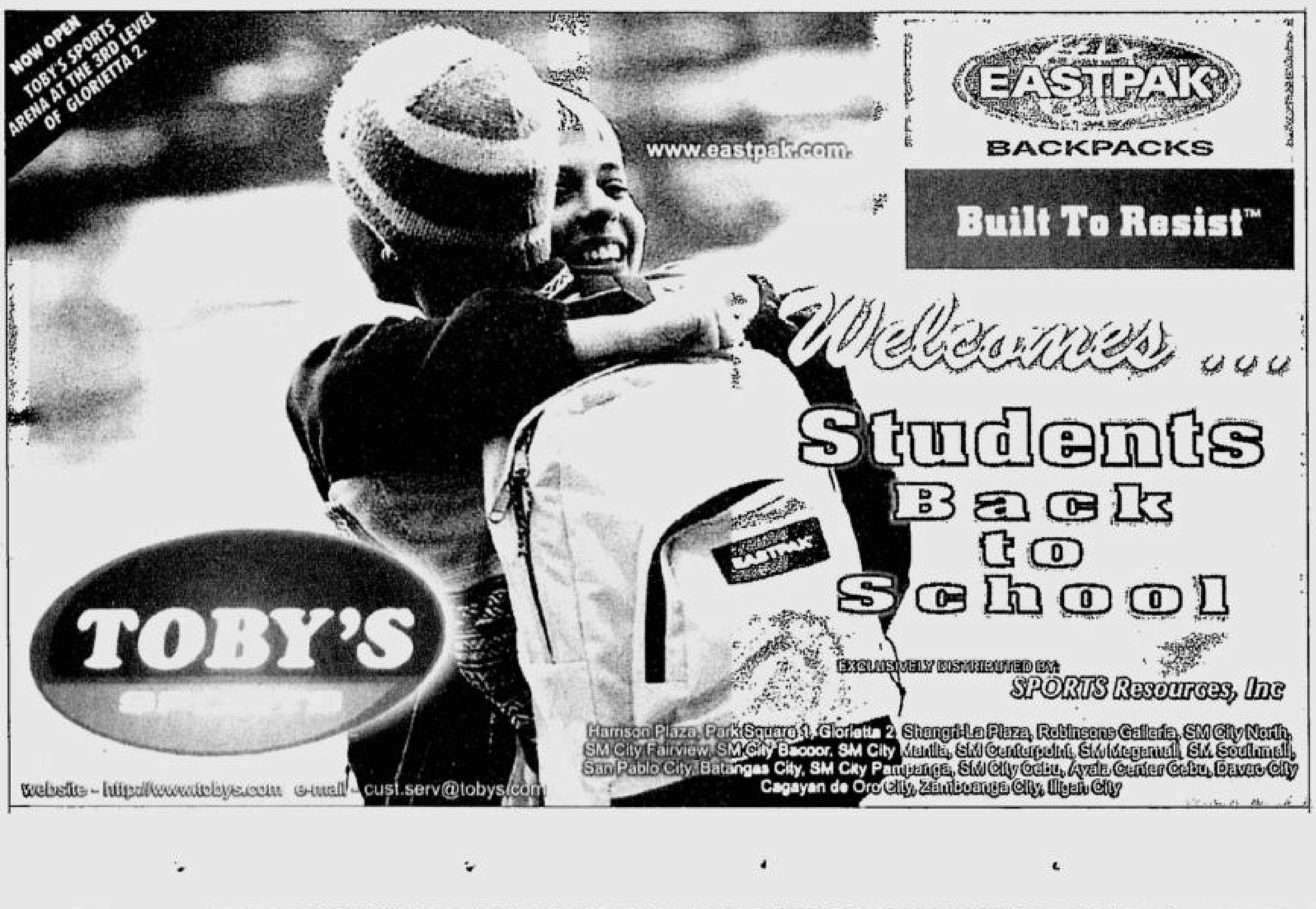
But he wouldn't accept that the Patriots are going to wind up losers in the First Phase of the Metropolitan Basketball Association starting on June 3.

Villa believes that his players are going to surmount the odds and avoid an early exit.

With the departure of superstar Willie Miller, Villa looked at nearby Pampanga and faraway Iloilo for reinforcements. From Pampanga, he got two De Guzmans—Andy and Jonathan—and two Fil-Ams—Bob Allen and Cliff Claybrooks. Francis Aquino was acquired from Iloilo.

The 6-foot-3 Andy, the oldest among the Patriots at 34, and the 5-11 Jonathan will contribute right away as they have been tapped to start with the 6-6 Allen, the 6-4 Dave Bautista and the 6-1 Aquino.

Sonny Manucat, a 6-2 hotshot, will again come off the bench but is certain to be among the Patriots' top scorers. Others in the backup unit are the 6-0 Claybrooks, 6-6 Bryant Punzalan, 6-5 Bernard de Guia, 6-4 Billy Bansil, 6-4 Jun Jun Bantigue and 5-7 Matt Makalintal.



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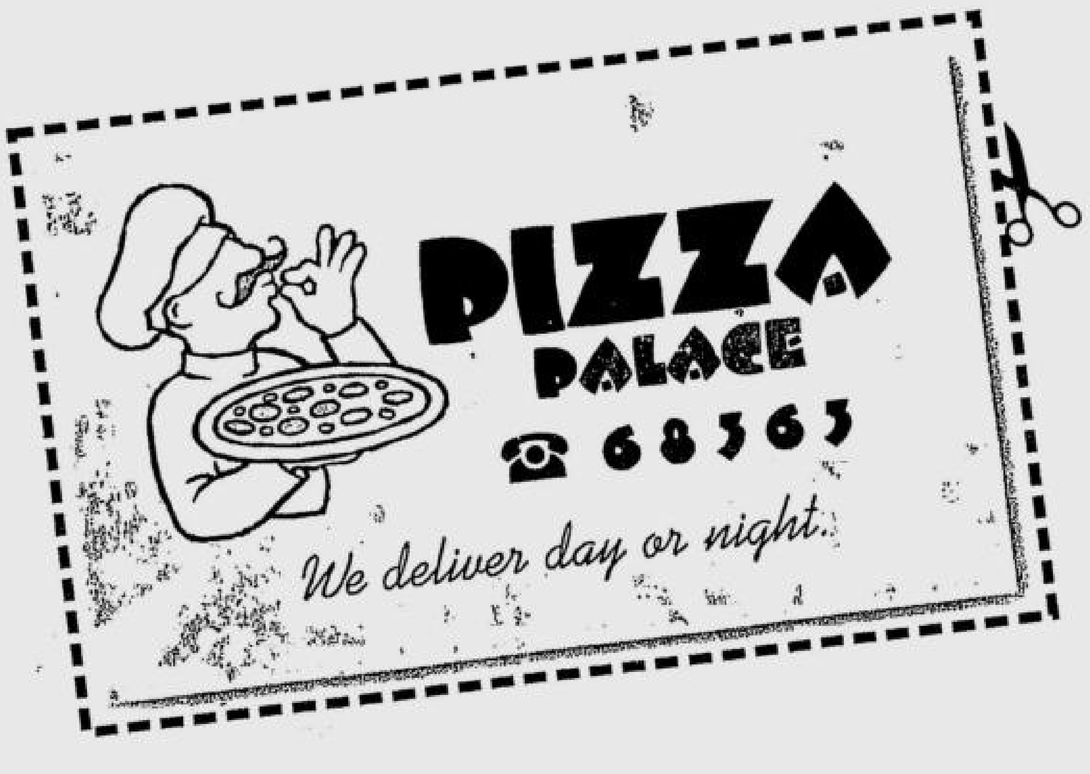
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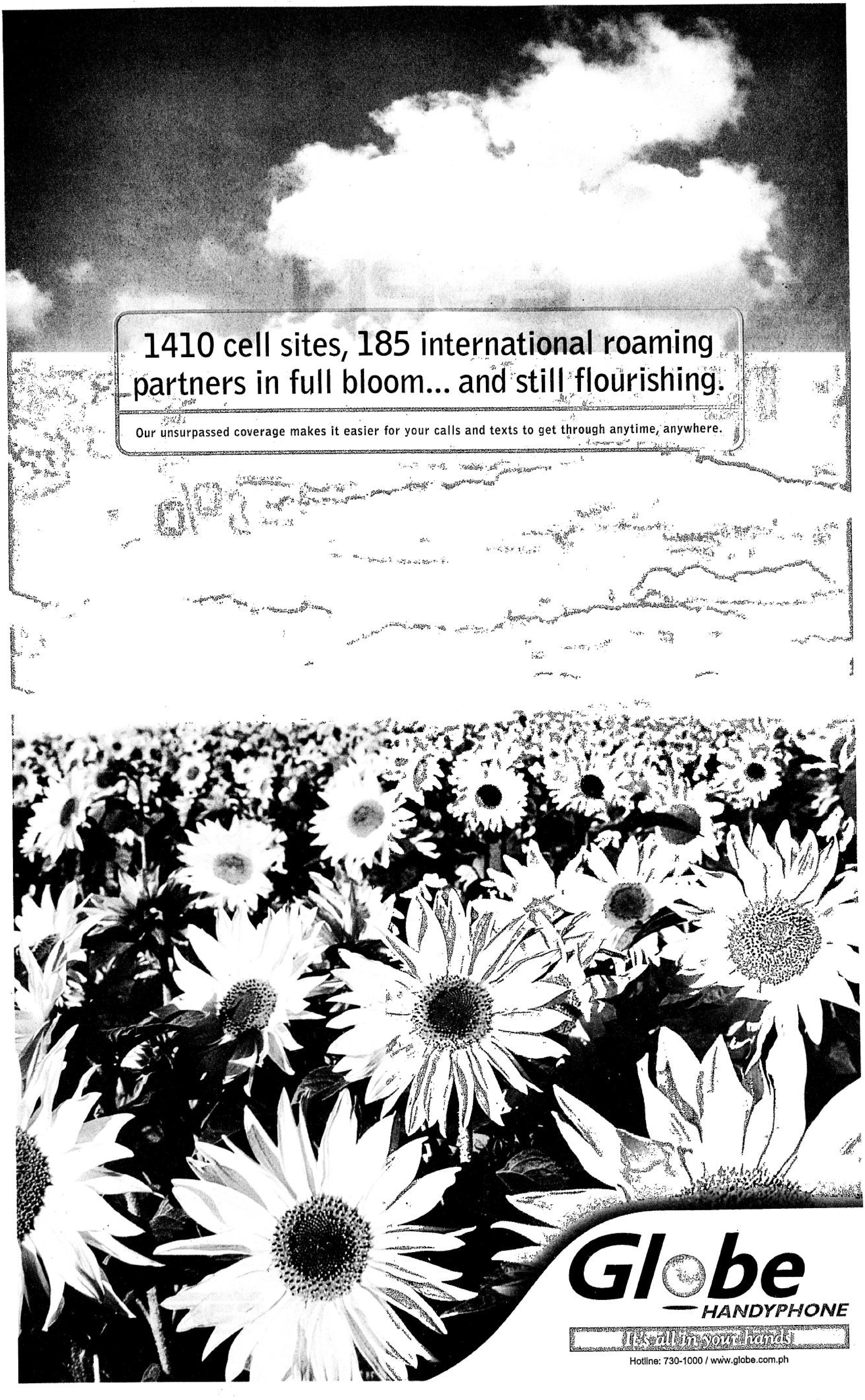

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2001 A25

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

17 years in jail for two who killed vendor in '95 A26
4 carnap suspects captured A26

4 waterless days coming

THE WATER supply to the cities of Pasay, Parañaque and Las Piñas, as well as Bacoor, Cavite, and parts of the cities of Manila, Caloocan, Quezon and Makati and the town of Malabon will be "interrupted" from Friday night to Monday night, according to Maynilad Water Services Inc.

The water cut-off lasts from 9 p.m. Friday, June 1, to 9 p.m. Monday, June 4.

Maynilad services the West Zone of Metro Manila. The other parts of the metropolis are serviced by Manila Water.

Portions of the Manila Water concession area in Manila and Makati will also go dry on those four days.

Maynilad president Rafael Alunan III said the interruption is due to nine major interconnection and valve insertion projects in Manila, Pasay, Makati, Caloocan and Quezon City, to be undertaken by JV Angeles Construction Corp.

He advised residents of the affected places to store water good for three days.

Alunan assured the residents that Maynilad will ration water in the affected areas.

He also clarified that the water service could return within 12 to 24 hours earlier than scheduled.

The affected areas are as follows:

- The whole of Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, and Bacoor, Cavite.
- Caloocan City: Grace Park, UE Hills Subdivision, Samson Road, San Miguel, Bisig ng Kabataan, Heroes del 96, Kaunlaran Village, Dagat-dagatan, Maypajo and San Miguel.
- Quezon City: Salvacion, Lourdes, Sto. Domingo, Sta. Teresita, Don Manuel, Doña Aurora, Lealtad, San Isidro, Damar Village, Galas, Santol, Pag-ibig ng Nayon, San Jose, Manresa, Maharlika, N.S. Amoranto, Paang Bundok, Balingasa, St. Peter, Sienna, Talayan, Sto. Niño, Sta. Mesa Heights, Tatalon and Pina Santol.
- Manila: Sta. Cruz, Sampaloc, Balic-Balic, Paco, Singalong, Intramuros, Tondo, Binondo, Ermita, Malate, San Miguel, Quiapo, Pandacan, Sta. Mesa, Malacañang Palace, San Andres and Singalong.
- Makati City: Palanan, Pio del Pilar, San Isidro, Bangkal and Magallanes Village.
- Malabon: Longos, Tugatog and Tonsuya.

The Manila Water areas that will be affected are:

- Manila: San Andres and Sta. Ana,
- Makati: La Paz, San Antonio Village, Pio del Pilar, Pasay Road, parts of Legaspi Village, Salcedo Village, San Lorenzo Village, Tejeros, Tejeron, Kasowalan, Sta. Cruz and Olympia.

Rationing

Maynilad said water tankers will bring water to the following places:

4 WATERLESS/A26

Car pools can ease traffic congestion, says Roco

ROCO

EDUCATION Secretary Raul S. Roco yesterday urged all private schools to promote car pools in anticipation of the traffic congestion in Metro Manila when schools open next week.

In a memorandum issued Monday, Roco told private schools that since their students come to school in private vehicles, they should implement contingency traffic measures to help ease traffic congestion.

"Traffic becomes worse not because of public schools but because of the private ones," Roco said in a news briefing. "If they don't have car pools, they are the ones who will be most affected by the traffic jams."

Roco said the additional traffic enforcers who would be deployed by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority could not contain the worsening situation on the road on school days.

Traffic usually clogs up road networks around private schools due to the large number of vehicles bringing students to school in the morning and picking them up in the afternoon.

Among the busiest roads are Katipunan and E. Rodriguez avenues and Aurora Boulevard in Quezon City,

CAR POOLS/ A26

'Cult' recruits girls; 1 says she's been raped

By Louie Jon A. Sanchez
and Christian V. Esguerra

A MAN and his son who are said to be the leaders of an alleged cult in Malabon City were arrested over the weekend for allegedly raping a 12-year-old girl recruit and turning her into a sex slave.

Suspected cult leaders Ely Lovedorial, 46, and his son Joel, 20, both of Sitio 6, Barangay Catmon in Malabon, are now in jail after the 12-year-old accused them of repeatedly raping her since April, police said.

Initial police investigation showed that according to the girl, the Lovedorials raped her at the Catmon Elementary School where the cult members are said to worship a god they call Satur.

Police said that since April, the Lovedorials have been recruiting girls 15 years old and below from all over Malabon to join their cult. Father and son allegedly would require their members to go to school from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily.

Early this month, the parents of another member sought police assistance after their daughter failed to return home.

The girl has not been found, according to police.

No bail has been recommended for the temporary release of the Lovedorials who are now detained at the Malabon jail.

In Caloocan City on Monday, laborer Angelito Cabibe, 24, was caught allegedly trying to rape the 16-year-old daughter of his friend.

Police said the friend was awakened by his daughter's scream and he caught Cabibe, wearing only his briefs, on top of her.

PO2 Louradel Cabiltes said the girl's father had invited Cabibe to stay in his house after a drinking session in a town fiesta.

Cabibe tried to escape, but the girl's father and some neighbors beat him up. He is now in jail and needs P100,000 for bail.

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17 years in jail for two who killed vendor in '95

By Christian V. Esguerra

A CALOOCAN regional trial court yesterday sentenced two workers to 17-year imprisonment for killing a vendor six years ago.

Orlando Ramirez and Rolando Galu were found guilty of stabbing to death Rolando de Castro in Bagong Barrio, Caloocan on Nov. 19, 1995.

A third suspect, Mauricio Talimugan, remains at large. The case against him was placed in the court archives.

Witness Christopher Velarde said in his testimony that he saw his cousins, Ramirez and Galu, and Talimugan chasing De Castro around 5:45 p.m. on that day in November 1995.

When the three men caught up with De Castro, Galu held him against a wall while Ramirez stabbed him, Velarde told the court.

The witness said he went to the house of De Castro's father Oscar to report the stabbing.

The young De Castro died before he could be brought to a hospital. He had been stabbed seven times, mostly in the back, according to medical records.

Galu denied any participation in the killing of De Castro. He claimed that Velarde's testimony was "ill-motivated" since there was "bad blood" between their families.

Ramirez claimed that Velarde testified against him only because the latter had once caught him using illegal drugs.

But Judge Silvestre Bello Jr. found Velarde's testimony truthful and convincing.

"It is well-settled that witnesses are to be weighed, not numbered, such that the testimony of a single, trustworthy and credible witness is sufficient to convict an accused," the judge said.

Bello added that Velarde was more credible since he was testifying against his cousins.

The judge, however, reduced the crime from murder to homicide since the prosecution failed to prove that there were treachery and evident premeditation in the killing of De Castro.

Galu and Ramirez were brought to the National Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa to serve their sentence.

CALOOCAN CHAOS

'Concerted action'

By Christian V. Esguerra

SHORT of calling it sabotage, a Caloocan official yesterday said there was "concerted action" to sow chaos in the city on election day, when many residents were not able to vote.

Election officer Calixto Ramos said the massive delay in the distribution of election materials was part of that action.

"There was a concerted action to delay the distribution of ballot boxes," Ramos said. "We all know that once the delivery of ballot boxes to schools is delayed, voters would get mad and (they would) go home."

Ramos could not say who orchestrated the delay and for what purpose.

Reelectionist Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo led Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio by some 30,000 votes in the final count by the Commission on Elections.

Malonzo's proclamation was suspended pending the resolution of Asistio's petition to declare a failure of elections in Caloocan.

In a joint suppplemental affidavit, eight city hall employees accused the city treasurer's office of mishandling the distribution of election materials on May 14, election day.

The accusers, all working at the treasurer's office, were Merle Vidollo, Rosita Bondoc, Gracia Ong, Lourdes Fajardo, Delia Manapat, Imelda Gutierrez, Amparo delos Santos, and Edgardo de Guzman.

They said that two days before the election, they went to the main city hall to segregate and record the election materials.

But their team leader, Maxilyn Emnace Morales, allegedly instructed them not to touch the materials until these had been transported to the north city hall.

Morales is said to be a sister of Malonzo's common-law wife, Gigi Emnace.

"We were actually able to work on the election materials only about 7 p.m. on May 13," a few hours before the materials were supposed to be distributed, they said in the affidavit.

About 2 p.m. on May 12, the group said they warned Morales it would be "impossible" to finish the preparation of materials.

But Morales allegedly ignored the warning.

The eight city hall workers were allegedly told to distribute materials to 783 polling precincts, while five other groups were each given only 350 precincts.

At about 10 p.m. the following day, four employees arrived to help out the eight workers upon their request.

The preparation of materials was stalled by the "gross errors in computations" which Morales allegedly committed.

Tempers flared in the early morning of May 14 at the distribution center in front of the main city hall when the teachers did not receive their allotted materials on time.

Many teachers were in the center as early as 1 a.m. that day to wait for the materials.

Ramos said that after he forcibly opened the gate of the center, he found many ballot boxes did not contain the needed election materials.

He said city treasurer Lourdes Jose told him there were no more materials to be distributed.

That afternoon, Comelec officials conducted an inventory of the election materials assigned to the city.

Ramos said he and his men found "many" election materials inside Jose's office. These included indelible ink, fingerprint papers and paper seals.

"How the materials got to them, I can't tell," he said.

Jose could not be reached for comment.

On Monday, supporters of Malonzo and Asistio nearly clashed in front of the main city hall when the Comelec suspended the proclamation of local winners.

A large streamer congratulating Malonzo for winning was put up at the veranda of the city hall, while big loudspeakers played the mayor's campaign jingle and a Queen hit song, "We are the Champions."

Asistio's followers responded by mocking Malonzo's songs while chanting Asistio's name.

Caloocan police chief Supt. Benjardi Mantele estimated the crowd to be about 400.

About 100 police officers pacified both camps.

4 carnap suspects captured

By Alcuin Papa

FOUR suspected members of a carnap gang, including a Sangguniang Kabataan chair, were arrested by members of the Southern Police District's Anti-Carnapping (Ancar) Unit in Makati City on Monday.

Senior Insp. Jesus Kabigting, chief of the SPD's Ancar Unit, identified the suspects as Ronald Bagan, alias Boyet Tulo, 35, of 2122 Gerry St., Pio Del Pilar; Nelson Bungay, alias Jigs, 23, Sangguniang Kabataan chair of Bangkal and resident of 514 D. Hizon St., Bangkal; Ronald Sitay, 30, of 5525 P. Binay St., Pio Del Pilar; and Arnel Sitay, 30, of 4553 Gerry Street, Pio Del Pilar, all of Makati City.

Kabigting said the four were arrested after they tried to sell car parts and a car stereo from a stolen Mitsubishi Lancer to a police agent posing as a buyer.

The four suspects were on board a blue Mitsubishi Lancer (PGM-668), police said. Kabigting's men also confiscated the car.

Found in the trunk of the car were various car parts and accessories, tools, a stolen license plate and an improvised metal car window opener.

The group had hidden the stolen car in a garage owned by Bagan's brother Edgar, in Barangay San Roque, Dasmariñas, Cavite, police said.

Kabigting said the four suspects were members of a syndicate operating in Makati and other cities south of Manila.

After stealing a car, they would bring it to the garage in Cavite where it would be stripped of its parts and accessories, which would then be sold.

All the suspects are now under detention and investigation by Makati police.

Electrocuted while sleeping

A SALESLADY died when she was electrocuted while sleeping on Monday afternoon in her house in Makati City.

Police said Fritzel Bagatua, of Sta. Maria Street, Barangay Pembo, was pronounced dead on arrival at the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig City.

Investigation showed that Bagatua was asleep in her room when the accident happened. The sleeping woman apparently touched an exposed extension wire, police said.

Bagatua's friend, Karen Gamosa, who was visiting, found Bagatua's badly burned body still smoldering about 4 p.m. Monday.

Nelson Flores

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, May 30, 2001
7th Week of Easter

1st Reading: **Acts 20:28-38**
Gospel: **Jn 17:11-19**

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed, "I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world whereas I am going to you. Holy Father, keep them in your Name (that you have given me,) so that they may be one, just as we are.

When I was with them, I kept them safe in your Name, and not one was lost except the one who was already lost, and in this the Scripture was fulfilled. But now I am coming to you and I leave these my words in the world that my joy may be complete in them.

I have given them your word and the world has hated them because they are not of the world; just as I am not of the world. I do not ask you to remove them from the world but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world; consecrate them in the truth—your word is truth.

I have sent them into the world as you sent me into the world, and for their sake, I go to the sacrifice by which I am consecrated, so that they too may be consecrated in truth."

Commentary:

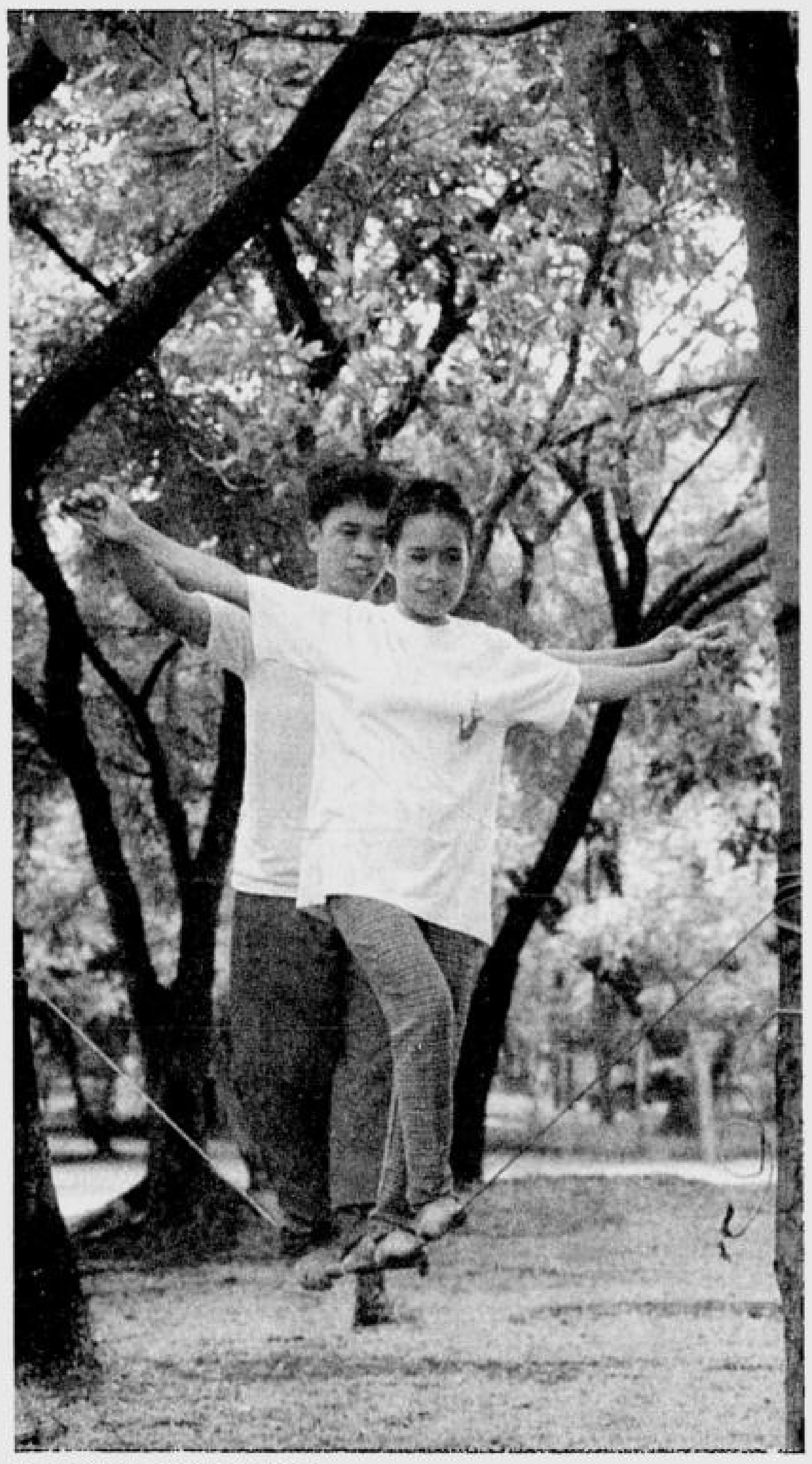
We continue today with Jesus' "high priestly prayer." The prayer for the unity of his disciples is modeled after the unity between him and his Father. Just as such unity between Jesus and the Father is in view of his mission of revealing God's intent for the world, so their unity is in view of their apostolic mission. The challenge of such unity in view of mission is especially urgent in our Asian inter-religious context. Inter-confessional ventures among us Christian believers especially in justice-and-peace-and-integrity-of-creation issues is a demand for facilitating our inter-religious endeavors in building a more just society and integral creation under the one Fatherhood/Motherhood of God, invoked by varied names in the pluralist religious traditions of our Asian continent.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Evident premeditation—There is evident premeditation when the following elements are proven: (1) the time when appellant decided to commit the crime; (2) an overt act showing that appellant clung to the determination to commit the crime; and (3) the lapse of a period of time between the decision and the execution of the crime, sufficient to allow appellant to reflect upon the consequences of the act. The relationship of the victim and the appellant had already been strained because of the minimal flow of water to the latter's rice field. Not only was the rice field of the victim situated higher than that of appellant; the former himself controlled the water going down the latter's farm. Moreover, when appellant approached the victim on the fateful day, the former was already carrying a gun. Clearly, appellant had gone to the farm, not innocently as he would us believe, but with an intent to confront and force the victim to address the dwindling supply of water flowing to the former's rice field. And when the victim refused to do so, appellant shot him as he had evidently planned. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, Third Division, People v. Sabado, G.R. No. 135863, November 20, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera



2 ON A TIGHTROPE

Rainier and Rowena Atendido are not playing but practicing at the park in the Quezon City Memorial Circle. What many children only dream of, husband and wife are actually doing. They are professional tightrope walkers and members of a circus group that goes around the country.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Cop accused of extorting liquor money from 2 men

By Agnes E. Donato

A POLICEMAN who had just come back from Oriental Mindoro was arrested for allegedly extorting P800 from two men in Rodriguez town in Rizal.

Supt. Arturo Tolentino, Rizal provincial police director, identified the policeman as PO2 Armando Geraldo 47, of Sitio Cayaran, Barangay Burgos, Rodriguez.

Geraldo was reportedly assigned to the San Teodoro municipal police station in Oriental Mindoro and was currently absent without official leave for still unknown reasons.

The complainants were Remy Pelsa, 19, and Alonzo Tumolac, 58, both of Barangay Balite, Rodriguez.

Investigation showed that the extortion occurred while Geraldo was drinking with friends in his neighborhood about 9:30 a.m. on Saturday.

The drunken policeman harassed Pelsa and Tumolac, who were then passing by, the complainants said.

The complainants said Geraldo blocked their way. At gunpoint, he demanded money from them so he could buy more liquor, they said.

Pelsa and Tumolac said they gave him a total of P800. But they also reported the incident to the police, who arrested their erring colleague a few hours later.

Police recovered from the suspect a .38 revolver and six live bullets. But Geraldo reportedly failed to present a license or any pertinent documents allowing him to carry the gun.

The suspect is detained at the Rodriguez municipal jail and is facing charges of extortion.

Car pools can . . .

(From page A25)

Ortigas Avenue in Pasig City, and España, Recto and the university belt in Manila, where the country's biggest schools are located.

The Land Transportation Office has reported that there were 79,427 registered private cars in Metro Manila in the first quarter of the year.

Roco said the Department of Education, Culture and Sports has been alerted on the possible chaotic state of vehicular traffic on June 4, when most schools open.

He said DECS would coordinate with traffic and police authorities to help ease the traffic condition.

He noted that while many private school students go to school in private vehicles, most public elementary and high school students go by using public transportation.

Lady Ann Briguera

'No simple robbery'

By Agnes E. Donato

POLICE yesterday said they suspected that the killing of the owner of a Shell gasoline station in Pasig City on Monday was not a simple robbery case.

Case investigator PO2 Norman Barcallano said police were still considering the possible motives in the killing of Virgilio Bordeos, 51, of Mindanao Avenue in Quezon City, who owned the Shell gas station on Marcos Highway in Santolan, Pasig City about 12:30 p.m. Monday.

Barcellano pointed out that the usual indications of robbery were missing.

"During a robbery, the suspects usually announce a holdup and get the money from the cashier," Barcellano explained. "But in this case, they just stormed the gasoline station without any word and went directly to the owner's office, as if they knew exactly where it was situated."

The unidentified gunmen shot Bordeos dead, took his attaché case and fled on board a motorcycle.

The investigator said he was also having difficulty in making a follow-up on the case because the victim's family would not cooperate.

The two sons of Bordeos reportedly witnessed his killing. But their mother reportedly advised them not to give any statement to the police, aside from their accounts of the shooting and a description of the gunman.

About 12:30 p.m. on Monday, John Mark, 16 and Virgilio Jr., 14, were talking with their father in the convenience store in the gas station when the two armed men barged inside.

Bordeos tried to stop the strangers from taking his black attaché case, but one of the men shot him at close range. Bordeos was hit in the head and died at once.

The gunman was described as 20 to 25 years old, of medium build, 5-foot-5 to 5-foot-7, with curly hair and wearing a blue jacket.

GMA, Cory in Marian fest

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Corazon Aquino will speak in honor of the Virgin Mary at the Manila Cathedral on June 1.

They will join Jaime Cardinal Sin, Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and many bishops in the event.

Called the "Day of Prayer and Preaching," the celebration will hail Mary as "The Lady of All Nations, Advocate for Peace."

The festival will last from 8 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. It is organized by the Marian Solidarity through Bishop Ramon Arguelles, bishop of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The Day of Prayer and Preaching is international in spirit. Soldiers and cadets will march with the flags of the different countries. Representatives of the foreign embassies will pray the rosary in 15 languages. They will also give their messages in honor of the Lady.

Leaders of church and state will use the occasion to honor Cardinal Sin who marks his 25th anniversary as a cardinal. He will preside over the noon Mass.

Cardinal Vidal will speak on Mary's great roles: assisting in man's redemption, calling down grace, praying for the people of God.

The bishops will also deliver messages on the topic. Archbishop Angel Lagdameo will talk on the Amsterdam apparitions of Mary.

The veneration of the Lady of All Nations has been officially approved by the bishop of Amsterdam, site of the apparitions.

Mary calls on the faithful to ask that the Holy Spirit preserve the nations from "degeneration, disaster, and war."

4 waterless . . .

(From page A25)

- Intramuros: P. Burgos, T.M. Kalaw and Roxas Boulevard.
- Ermita: San Marcelino, UN Avenue, Taft Avenue, Pedro Gil, Roxas Boulevard.
- Paco: Zamora, Canonigo, PSG, Paz, San Gregorio, Kahilum, Perdigon, Pedro Gil.
- Pandacan: Pasig River, PNR Tracks, Estero de Pandacan, Quirino Avenue.
- Makati: Palanan, San Isidro, Pio del Pilar, Bangkal and Magallanes Village.
- Pasay: Five tankers will make water available.
- Parañaque: Baclaran, Dongalo, La Huerta, San Dionisio, Tambo, San Isidro, Don Bosco, Merville, Moonwalk, San Martin de Porres, Marcelo Green, Sun Valley, Sto. Niño and San Antonio.
- Las Piñas: Manuyo 1 and 2, Danile Fajardo, Pulang Lupa 1 and 2, Ilaya, Zapote, Las Piñas and Pamplona.
- Bacoor: Zapote, Bacoor, Talaba IV and III and Aniban I.
- Roosevelt: 1 tanker each for Pag-ibig sa Nayon and Damar; St. Peter and Manresa; Lourdes and Doña Josefa; Sta. Teresita and Don Manuel; San Jose and San Isidro Labrador; Tatalon and Doña Aurora; San Isidro and Doña Imelda; Santol and Sto. Nino; Paang Bundok and Salvacion; San Jose and San Isidro Labrador.
- Caloocan Sector: San Jose, C-3 Road, Tagaytay Street; portions of West and East Grace Park, 4th Avenue, Nadurata C. Namie, Maria Clara; Maypajo, Estero de Maypajo, PNR, Railway, C-3 Road, Dagat-dagatan Creek; Portion of Sangandaan, Caloocan: C-3 Road, Dagat-dagatan Creek, Libis Espina, Doña Rita; Heroes del 96, Samson Road, Bisig ng Kabataan, UE Subdivision, Torres Bugallon, Malabon/Caloocan Boundary, University Avenue Dalagang Bukid, Lapu-Lapu and Talakitok.

Rape suspect nabbed in Makati

POLICE arrested a 30-year-old man in Makati City who was accused of raping a 42-year-old housemaid.

Police said Noel Jose, 30, of Green Valley Subidivision, Bacoor, Cavite, was arrested at the Metropole condominium on H. V. de la Costa Street. He denied the rape allegation but did not resist arrest, police said.

The housemaid, who works in Dasmariñas Village, also in Makati, alleged that Jose raped her on May 23 inside the condominium, where he works as a family driver.

The maid said Jose threatened to kill her if she would report the rape to police.

The suspect is detained at the Makati City police jail.

Nelson Flores

'MAX 8'

Boys, women and other big names

By Fred Samantela

RECORD REVIEW

IF YOU'RE wondering what's selling in foreign albums, "Max 8," a compilation album, will give you an idea.

Boy bands are one of the big sellers. In various locations on the Top 20, about five albums are by boy bands. And if people are not buying boy bands, there are girl bands, too, amply distributed in the charts.

Then, of course, there are the female artists—Christina Aguilera, Jennifer Lopez and Joy Enriquez.

"Max 8" is a testimony to the power of a name, and on top of the heap of names is Ricky Martin. But since his latest album is still in the works, his song gets compiled here. Take note, too, that Martin came from a boy band, Menudo, and that he is the lone survivor of that band. He was also one of its youngest members.

Boy bands first made it in these parts a few years ago. A Singaporean company owned by Steven Watson and the ex-president of Chrysalis Records launched a boy band in Asia and Australia and they were successful in tapping this market, much to their surprise. All sorts of artists followed suit and the company was in big business.

Having attended one of their planning sessions, I was amazed by how they planned everything in the region as well as back in the US or Europe where the artists were usually based.

Of course, a lot of artists were also given the thumbs-down in the planning session. And one could only cringe if the group unanimously ruled to junk some artists.

The planning was so thorough and detailed, and included a six-month campaign prior to the launch of the album. Tell me if any recording company in Manila can follow this to the letter.

"Max 8" has, for starters, Jennifer Lopez with "Love Don't Cost a Thing," Destiny's Child with "Independent Women" (from the Charlie's Angels movie), Martin with "She Bangs," Christina Aguilera with "Come on Over Baby (All I Want is You)," Madonna with "Music," Joy Enriquez with "Tell Me How You Feel."

I don't know how Madonna's latest album fared but the careers of all the female artists in this pack are on the upswing. But Madonna is the mother of reinvention and she can very well take care of herself. In an interview, she admitted being influenced by a man, not a woman, artistically and otherwise. That man is David Bowie.

The only women she admires and whose works she collects are the artist painters—Lee Miller, Tina Modotti, Frida Kahlo. Interesting.

Next we have Pink with "Most Girls," which is getting fairly popular now. Then we have the bands: A1, "No More;" Sugababes, "Overload;" M2M, "Everything You Do;" The Corrs, "Give Me a Reason;" Leann Rimes, "Can't Fight the Moonlight;" Leigh Nash, "Need to be Next to You;" Westlife, "My Love;" and Plus One, "Last Fight Out."

Sade slows down the pace with "By Your Side." And Craig David follows up with the R&B song "7 Days." If only for this song, the album is worth listening till the end.

Then it's back to ATC, "Around the World" and the reggae hit of Baha Men, "Who Let the Dogs Out."

It takes a good ear for music to come up with this line-up, plus a lot of negotiations as the album involves artists from other major labels. The album also showcases new artists and gives them a chance to be marketed in the major league.

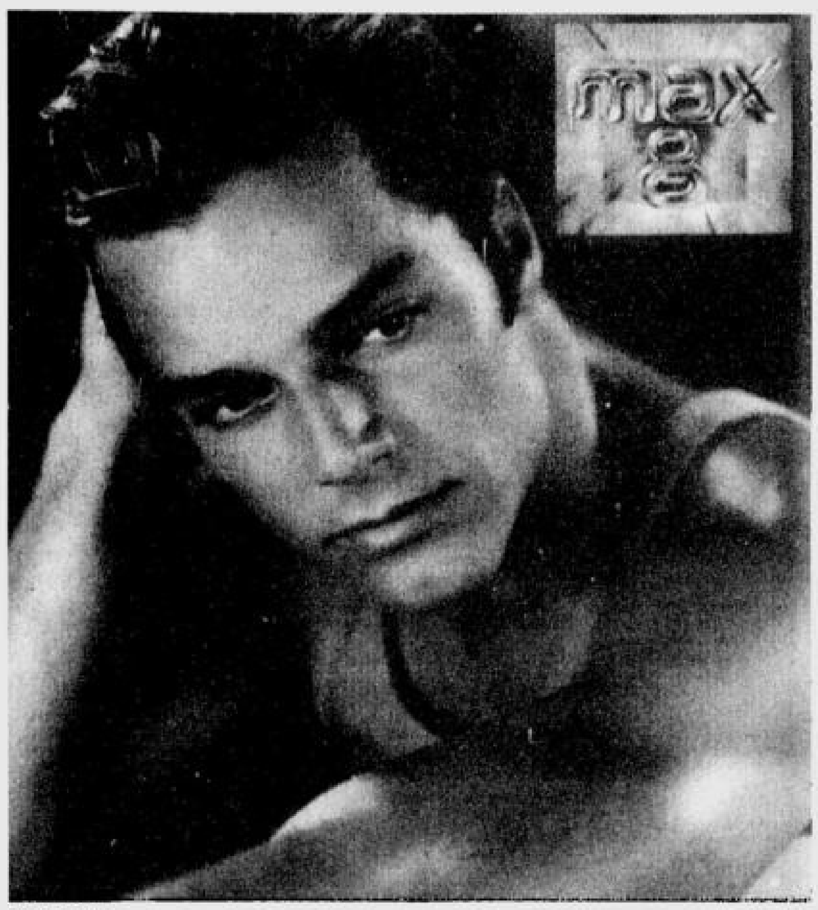
Foreign artists have a strong influence on the local music scene, but we still have to see a local boy or girl band making it big. And we also have a dearth of male solo performers to join the ranks of Martin Nievera and Gary Valenciano.

Live bands, though, are dominating the local entertainment scene and solo artists are confined to major concerts.

The "Max 8" album is basically dance and should do well in the youth market. But it's also for people who do not have the luxury of time or patience to listen to the albums in the listening booths at the record stores. All you have to do is grab the album and you're done with your shopping.

Will there be more compilations to come? "Max 9"?

Or, you can wait for Ricky Martin's new album.



MARTIN

'Miss Saigon' plays 6 nights a week in HK

THE TOUR of duty of "Miss Saigon" has begun and Hong Kong audiences are flocking to see it, said to be one of the greatest musicals of the 20th century.

The Cameron Mackintosh theater event recently made its long-awaited debut in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong residents and visitors now have the opportunity to see a musical that has previously delighted more than 28 million people in 12 countries and 71 cities, enjoying long runs in London's West End and on New York's Broadway.

It has been performed in eight different languages and received numerous awards worldwide, grossing more than $1 billion in box-office receipts.

Brought to Hong Kong by international events management company IMG, "Miss Saigon" is a ``Spotlight Hong Kong'' event promoted by the Hong Kong Tourism Board and has Cathay Pacific Airways as title sponsor.

"Miss Saigon" was written and composed by Alain Boubil and Claude-Michel SchÖnberg, who also created the stage version of "Les Misérables." It is set during the final days of the Vietnam war.

A love story based loosely on Belasco/Puccini's "Madame Butterfly," it tells the tale of a young Vietnamese girl, Kim, and a US marine guard, Chris, who become separated in the evacuation of Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) in 1975, not realizing that Kim is pregnant with their child.

The story then moves on a few years to when Chris returns to Vietnam with his new wife, Ellen, and meets his son Tam for the first time.

Hong Kong showgoers will be able to see a top-class production with a cast headed by Scott Anson and Manila's Deedee Lyn Magno, both international "veterans" of the leading roles.

Scott played Chris in the West End production of "Miss Saigon" for two years from 1997 to 1998, while Deedee has played Kim both on Broadway and on the road with the Second National Touring Company. Musical director Guy Simpson, too, has been involved in "Miss Saigon" productions as far apart as London and Sydney.

Leo Valdez of the Philippines reprises his role as The Engineer, which the musical's producers have described as "the best Engineer."

At the same time, though, there will be a true Hong Kong flavor to the production with three local four-years-olds alternating in the part of Tam.

An added attraction of the Hong Kong production is that it will use the entire original stage set and props from the Broadway show, which ended its run of almost 10 years this January. The set and props are being transported in 33 sea containers and include a helicopter built to 75 percent full size and weighing nearly 4,000 kg, a full-sized Cadillac, and a 5.5-meter, 270-kg statue of Ho Chi Minh.

For a limited season beginning May 18, performances will be staged six nights a week, Tuesday to Sunday, at the Grand Theater of the Hong Kong Cultural Center, in addition to matinees every Saturday and Sunday.

Ticket prices range from HK$295 to HK$695, with special rates for students.

Further information can be obtained from the Hong Kong Tourism Board's worldwide offices and its website at www.DiscoverHongKong.com; or the official show website at www1.hutchcity.com/miss-saigon.html.

Visitors who would like to secure their seats ahead of their trip to Hong Kong can contact the presenter booking hotline at +852 2815 1516 or www.tixmart.com.hk; or URBTIX at +852 2734 9011. There is a small handling fee for advance bookings.

Alec Baldwin upset over split with Kim Basinger

LOS ANGELES—Alec Baldwin, whose hot temper was cited in the breakup of his marriage to Kim Basinger, said his divorce from the actress was "the worst thing that's ever happened to me."

It felt like "someone punching me in the stomach as hard as they could right before I had to go run the marathon," Baldwin says in the latest issue of Biography magazine. "I still love my wife more than anybody."

The actor calls Basinger a "one-in-a-billion person."

"People come up and say, 'You're young, maybe you'll meet someone else,' and I think that's just the most kind of unimaginable thing in the world to me," he said. *AFP*

BASINGER

BALDWIN

Ben Affleck expects to survive 'Christmas' after 'Pearl Harbor'

LOS ANGELES—He survived "Pearl Harbor." Now actor Ben Affleck is in negotiations to star in "Surviving Christmas," which is expected to begin within the next six months.

Affleck, who stars in the World War II epic that blasts onto screens on Friday, will play a man faced with spending Christmas alone, Daily Variety said Thursday.

The affable Affleck also took over Harrison Ford's starring role in the Jack Ryan franchise with Paramount's "The Sum of All Fears." *AFP*

'Cider House' director to meg Leo DiCaprio in true con story

LOS ANGELES—Director Lasse Hallstrom is in talks with DreamWorks to direct "Catch Me If You Can" starring Leonardo DiCaprio, according to Variety.

"Catch Me If You Can" tells the true story of Frank Abagnale Jr., a con man who impersonated so many people and wrote so many bad checks in the mid-1960s that he made the FBI's 10 most wanted list while just a teenager.

DiCaprio will play Abagnale, who when he was finally caught had written millions of dollars of bad checks in all 50 states and dozens of foreign countries, the trade journal said Friday.

The **movie** will detail the con man's impersonations of a Pan Am co-pilot, a Georgia doctor and the assistant attorney general of Louisiana, Variety said. *AFP*

Academy finds new home for archive

LOS ANGELES—The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has found a new home for its Film Archive: the former Don Lee-Mutual Broadcasting television studios at Vine Street and Fountain Avenue in Hollywood.

"It's the first time since 1946 that the Academy has had a permanent presence in Hollywood," Rehme told a news conference Wednesday in one of the building's run-down studios.

"After being away for half a century, we are delighted to be back." *AFP*

Jackie Chan's 'Highbinders' most expensive HK movie

LOS ANGELES—Jackie Chan's "Highbinders" will have the biggest budget for any Hong Kong **movie** to date, a whopping $35 million, according to website Zap2it.com.

The supernatural thriller is supposed to start in early July in Hong Kong and Australia, Zap2it said Thursday.

But director Reginald Hudlin ("The Ladies Man") may bow out because of concerns over **movie** financing.

The film lacks a major studio distributor, the website said. *AFP*

CHAN

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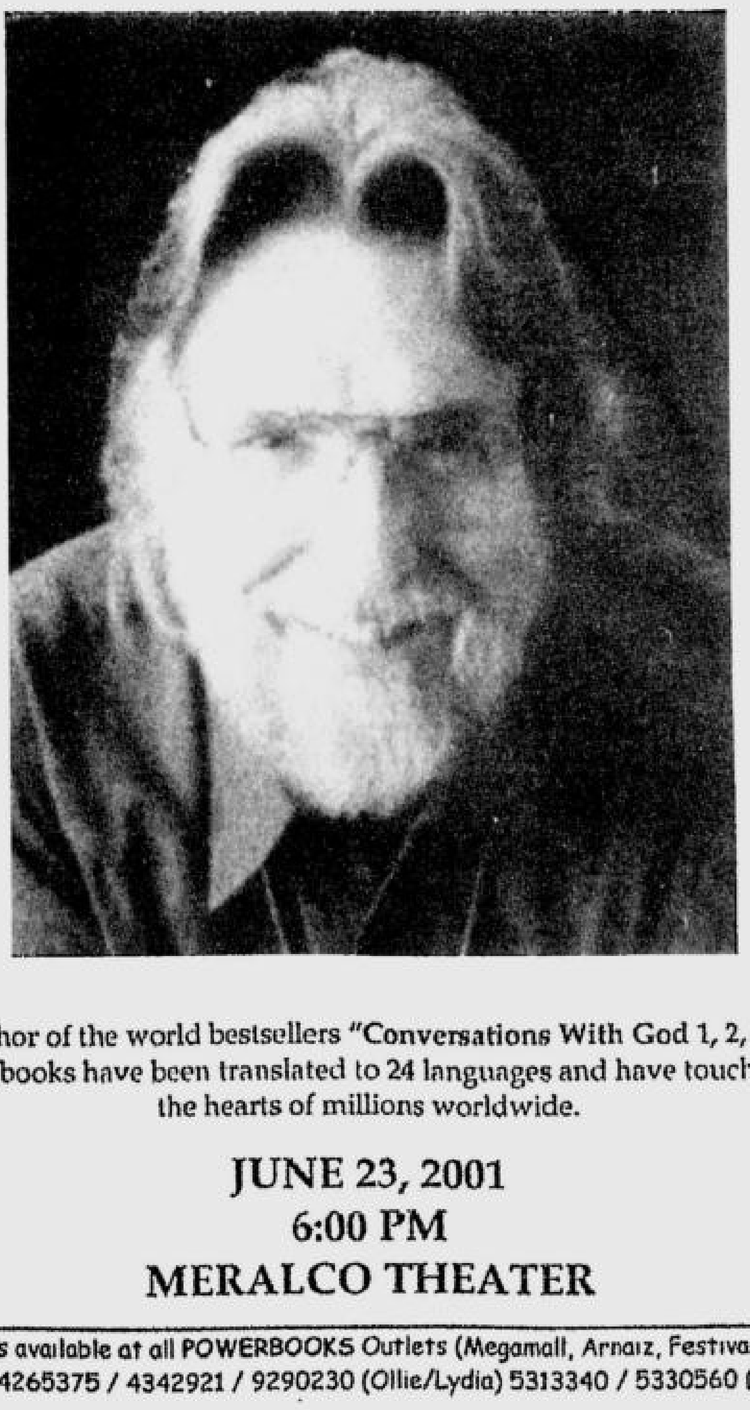

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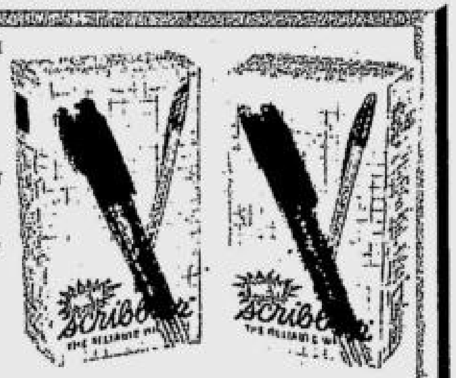

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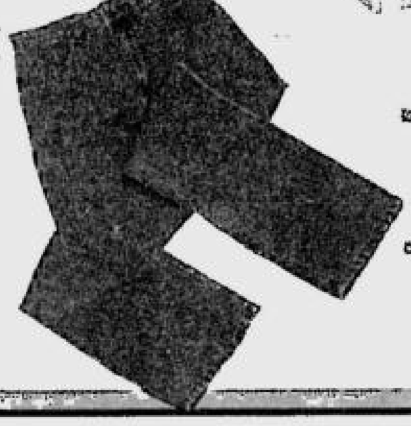

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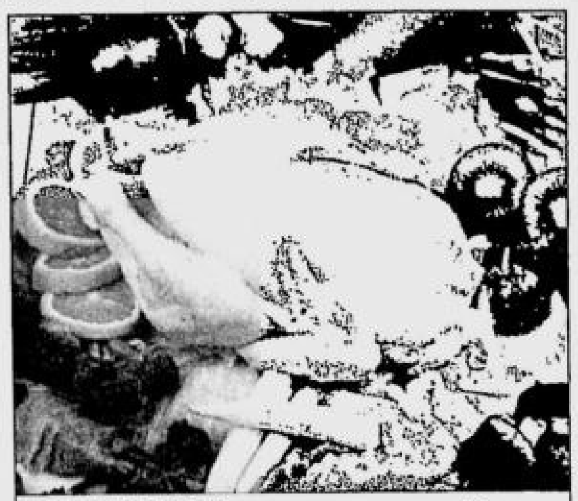

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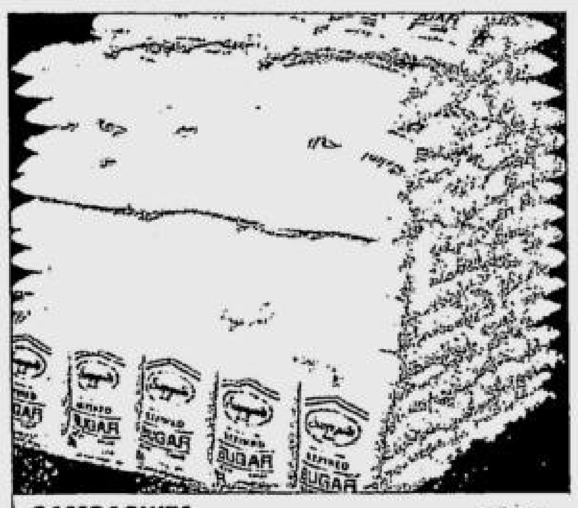

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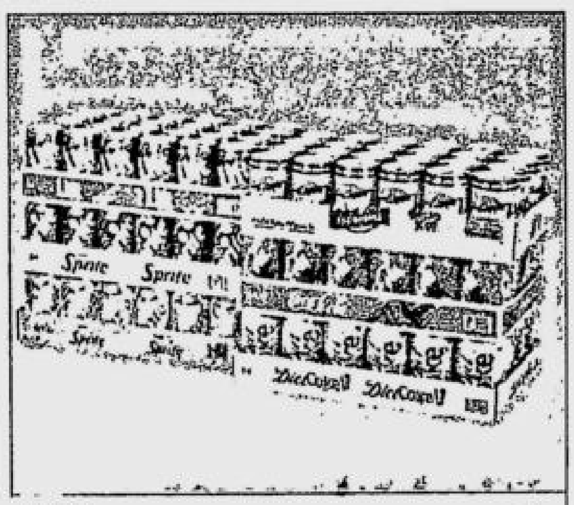

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And Roman Coppola makes three

AFTER we came out with our piece on **Francis Ford Coppola** and his daughter **Sofia** last Saturday, we learned that a third Coppola, Francis' son **Roman**, has also turned feature film director.

His directorial debut is "CQ," a film set in 1969. It's about an idealistic American filmmaker who goes to Paris and finds himself directing a grade B science-fiction flick.

"CQ" was screened at the recently concluded Cannes filmfest, which was also the venue for the world premiere of "Apocalypse Now Redux," the expanded version of Coppola's war epic, which was shot in the Philippines some 25 years ago.

In the new version, Roman appears as a boy reading a poem in a scene set in a French plantation. The scene wasn't included in the original 1979 version of the film.

"Apocalypse Now Redux" has 53 minutes of previously unseen footage, including new scenes and characters.

With father, son and daughter in the director's chair, the Coppolas have emerged as the movies' leading filmmaking family, eclipsing even the Hustons, and Sheens, whose involvement has largely been in front of the camera, rather than behind it.

Other filmmaking families: The Hustons, starting with **Walter Huston**, who was an actor in the 1920s. He played the title role in **D.W. Griffith**'s "Abraham Lincoln," among other major performances.

Walter's son, **John Huston**, also did some acting, but soon gravitated toward his real love, directing. He started with "The Maltese Falcon" (1941). In "Treasure of the Sierra Madre" (1942), he directed his father, Walter, whose performance as an old prospector won a best supporting actor Oscar.

His other exceptional films include "The African Queen," "The Red Badge of Courage" and "Prizzi's Honor," which featured his daughter **Anjelica**, and was co-written by his son **Tony**.

For her part, Anjelica Huston worked a lot as an actress and had a long love affair with **Jack Nicholson** before she also turned to directing.

The Fondas have been actors, for the most part. **Henry** was the movie screen's quintessential nice guy. His children, **Jane** and **Peter**, were far more assertive. Peter starred in and co-wrote the seminal road movie, "Easy Rider," while Jane became a major Hollywood star with superior performances in "Klute," "Julia" and "Coming Home."

As for the Sheens, **Martin** began his career as a stage actor, and he acted on TV before he clicked as a film star in movies like "Badlands," "Catch-22" and "Apocalypse Now."

He's currently enjoying a resurgence of sorts as the star of the hit TV drama, "The West Wing," where he plays no less than the president of the United States.

His actor-sons are **Emilio Estevez** and **Charlie Sheen**.

Feedback

FROM **Ely R. Cuaderno** of Makati City: "I would like to remind the managers of our TV channels that they should stick to the programming schedules they have announced. Very often these days, programs go overtime, so the shows following them start late.

"There is a domino effect at work here, and pretty soon, you don't know anymore what program is showing at what time.

"This is bad for people like me who have to schedule our TV viewing, or switch from one channel to another to be able to watch our favorite shows . . ."

New album

AFTER 20 years, the acclaimed folk duo, Asin, has come up with a new album, titled "Pag-ibig, Pagbabago at Pagpapatuloy." The carrier single is "Ang Mahalaga."

Lolita Carbon and **Pendong Aban Jr.** have dedicated their new album to their late partner, **Saro Bañares**. One cut in the album, "Sa Malayong Silangan," features Saro's voice, recorded before he died.

Asin's new album was recently launched at '70s Bistro on Anonas Street, QC.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Diane Keaton found Woody Allen 'cute' but says he thinks she's 'an idiot'

LOS ANGELES—They may have worked together on eight movies. But don't expect Academy Award-winning actress Diane Keaton to collaborate any time soon on a script with Woody Allen.

Why? He thinks she's an idiot, Keaton, 55, tells TV Guide.

"He does," she tells the magazine. "Call him up and ask him and he'll tell you. But he likes me."

Keaton—who won a best actress Oscar for "Annie Hall" (1977) which Allen directed—said she had a crush on Allen when she first met him on the Broadway set of "Play It Again, Sam."

"I thought he was so cute," she said. "I tried to make him like me."

"And he's not social—he isn't somebody who runs around making a lot of new friends. So therefore, he didn't have much of a choice." *AFP*

Hitchcock's 'Suspicion' to be remade by 2 firms

LOS ANGELES—Dimension Films and RKO Pictures will co-produce a remake of Alfred Hitchcock's 1941 suspense thriller "Suspicion," the Hollywood Reporter said Tuesday.

"Suspicion" originally starred Cary Grant and Joan Fontaine in the story of a young bride who suspects her new husband is a killer and that she is next on his list.

Fontaine's performance won her an Oscar for best actress. *AFP*

Kasdan to direct Steven King film

LOS ANGELES—Lawrence Kasdan will direct and produce the film version of suspense-meister Stephen King's best-selling novel "The Dreamcatcher" for Castle Rock Entertainment, the Hollywood Reporter said Thursday.

"Dreamcatcher" is a thriller about four childhood friends who share a special relationship after performing a heroic act.

Years later, they reunite for another heroic act—trying to save Earth from a "mysterious force," the trade journal says.

There is no start date for the project, said to have elements of "The Green Mile" and "Stand by Me," two other King novels brought to the big screen by Castle Rock. *AFP*

Redford refuses President Bush invitation, rebukes official

LOS ANGELES—Bill Clinton was a popular fella among Hollywood's finest, but George W. Bush is finding it hard to get his calls returned.

That became apparent this week when Robert Redford refused an invitation from Bush's interior secretary Gale Norton to an ecology event.

According to Empire Online, Redford left no confusion as to why.

"I thank you for your kind invitation to a condor release press event," the actor-director wrote to Norton, "and I hope you understand that I am not inclined to join such an event.

"Rather, I intend to use what time I have to focus on the devastating environmental repercussions of the agenda you and President Bush embrace, and the decisions you are now making in your current capacity at the Interior Department.

"Sadly, since assuming the Interior Secretary post, you have compiled an abysmal record of capitulating to big businesses at the expense of the nation's public health, public lands and wildlife," Redford wrote. *AFP*

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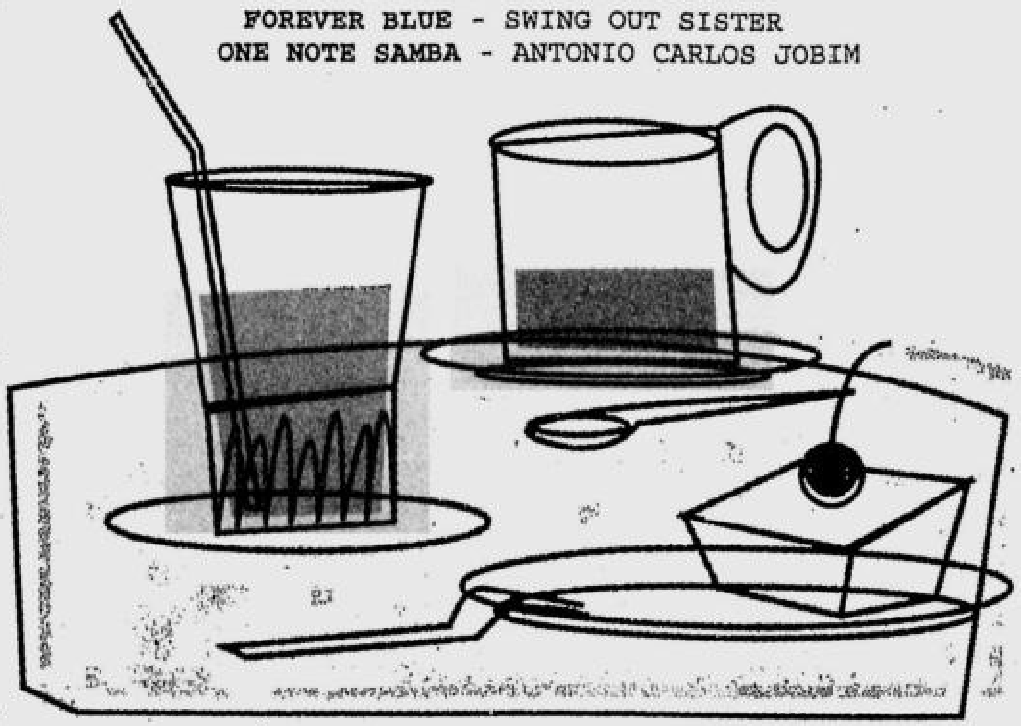
ONE NOTE SAMBA - ANTONIO CARLOS JOBIM



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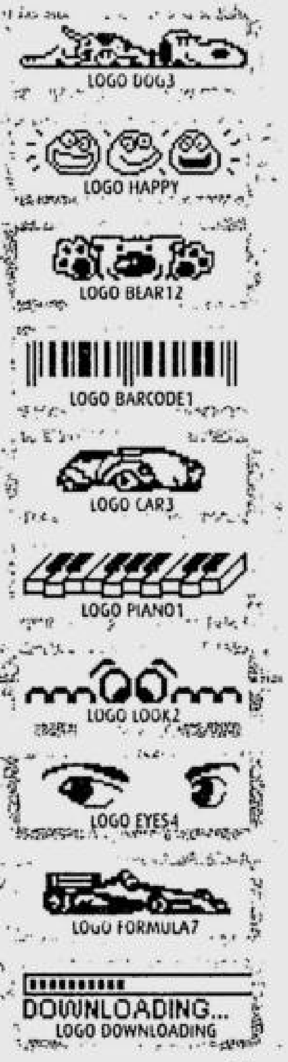
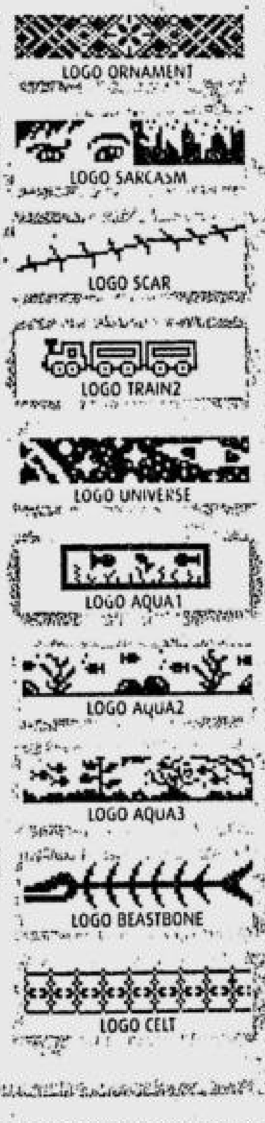
2	Take on Me	Aha	TONE TAKEONME
3	Better Off Alone	Alice Dee Jay	TONE OFFALONE
4	Sweet Child O Mine	Guns N Roses	TONE SWEETCHI
5	Love Me For A Reason	Boyzone	TONE LUV4RISN
6	Strange Love	Depeche Mode	TONE STRNGELV
7	Kokomo	Beach Boys	TONE KOKOMO
8	Ally McBeal Theme	Vonda Shepard	TONE ALLYMC
9	Starwars 3 Theme	John Williams	TONE STRWRS3
10	Breakout.	Swingout Sisters	TONE BRKOUT

Top Ten Logos



Newest Logos



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1	DOLBY SURROUND	TRAFFIC
2	DOLBY SURROUND	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	CUT AWAY
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	ANGEL EYES
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
7	DOLBY SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001

SM CENTERPOINT		7149522 • 7161416
1	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
2	DOLBY SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
3	DTS	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	TRAFFIC
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	ANGEL EYES
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
7	DOLBY SURROUND	CUT AWAY
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW		9350749
1	DOLBY SURROUND	TRAFFIC
2	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	DOLBY SURROUND	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	ANGEL EYES
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	CUT AWAY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
12	DOLBY SURROUND	CARTA ALAS

SM CITY MANILA		5239240
1	DOLBY DIGITAL	ANGEL EYES
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	CUT AWAY
3	DOLBY SURROUND	KAMASURA 2001
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	TRAFFIC
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURNS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	DOLBY SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
11	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
12	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR		8820950
1	ULTRA SURROUND	MAPAGBIGAY
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS

SM MEGAMALL		6331901 • 6329401
1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TRAFFIC
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
9	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CUT AWAY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA		9295452
1	DOLBY SURROUND	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
2	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CUT AWAY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
5	DOLBY SURROUND	TRAFFIC
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
7	DTS	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MUMMY RETURNS
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
12	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE

SM SOUTHMALL		8066888 • 8066782
1	ULTRA SURROUND	TRAFFIC
2	ULTRA SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	CUT AWAY
5	ULTRA SURROUND	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	VALENTINE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	ANGEL EYES
9	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
10	ULTRA SURROUND	CARTA ALAS

TUTUBAN CENTER		2514302
1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CARTA ALAS

SM CEBU		2313876
1	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	DEMON GATE
3	ULTRA SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	PILAK
5	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
6	ULTRA SURROUND	LUCKY NUM,BERS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	THWE MUMMY RETURNS

SM ILOILO		3209422
1	ULTRA SURROUND	PILAK
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
4	ULTRA SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	CROUCHING TIGER

SM PAMPANGA		7128015
1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	TRAFFIC
3	DOLBY SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURNS

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GLORIETTA 1
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1	ALAS DOSE
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	CARTA ALAS
4	CUT AWAY

All Digital Sound

GLORIETTA 4

1	ANGEL EYES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	TRAFFIC in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ALL THE PRETTY HORSES (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	SOMEONE LIKE YOU in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	THE MUMMY RETURNS in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	CUT AWAY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	ALL THE PRETTY HORSES (Phil. Premiere) in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	ANGEL EYES in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE June 8-9 9PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	ANGEL EYES in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ALAS DOSE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	CUT AWAY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE

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EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	TRAFFIC
2 (SDDS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
4 GOLD (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	CUT AWAY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	ANGEL EYES
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8 (PRMG)	CARTA ALAS
9 (PRMG)	SPY KIDS
10 (PRMG)	ALAS DOSE

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	CARTA ALAS
2	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2 (DTS)	ALAS DOSE
3	CARTA ALAS

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	ALAS DOSE
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	CARTA ALAS

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	ALAS DOSE
2	CARTA ALAS
3	KAMASUTRA 2001
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
5	ANGEL EYES

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	ALAS DOSE
2	KAMASUTRA 2001
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	CARTA ALAS
6	THE MUMMY RETURNS
7	ANGEL EYES
8	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 / 892.3349

1	

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BALIKTARAN
2	EXIT WOUNDS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	RESERVE
2	CARTA ALAS
3	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	CARTA ALAS
A	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	ALAS DOSE
2	CARTA ALAS
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	ALAS DOSE
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	CUT AWAY
5	KAMASUTRA 2001
6	CARTA ALAS
7 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8 (SDDS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
9 (DOLBY)	ANGEL EYES

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	ALAS DOSE

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	ALAS DOSE
2	ALAS DOSE
3	CARTA ALAS
4 (SDDS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
5	TRAFFIC
6 (DOLBY)	ANGEL EYES
7 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	ALAS DOSE
3	CARTA ALAS
4	ALAS DOSE
5 (SDDS)	ANGEL EYES
6	KAMASUTRA 2001
7 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
8	CUT AWAY

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	ALAS DOSE
2	CARTA ALAS
3 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	ALAS DOSE
5 (SDDS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	ALAS DOSE

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	ALAS DOSE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	FEMALE ANIMALS
Lords	CARTA ALAS
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	ALAS DOSE
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	RESERVE
4	CARTA ALAS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	ALAS DOSE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	ALAS DOSE
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	MASARAP UNANG KAGAT
4	CARTA ALAS
5	ANGEL EYES

New Divisoria Mall CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	ALAS DOSE
2	CARTA ALAS
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
5	DALAWA SI EBA
6	MASARAP UNANG KAGAT

Baclaran LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	ALAS DOSE
2	CARTA ALAS
3	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	CARTA ALAS
2	ALAS DOSE
3 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ALAS DOSE
2 (DTS)	VALENTINE
3 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
4	CARTA ALAS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	ALAS DOSE
2	CUT AWAY
3	CARTA ALAS
4 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545 7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	ALAS DOSE
3 (DTS)	VALENTINE
4	CARTA ALAS
5	THE POSSESSED

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	CARTA ALAS
3	ALAS DOSE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	CARTA ALAS
3	ALAS DOSE

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	BALIKTARAN
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511 9736

1	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	ALAS DOSE
3	CARTA ALAS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	CARTA ALAS
2 (DTS)	ALAS DOSE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	ALAS DOSE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	ALAS DOSE
2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
3	CARTA ALAS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
2	THE POSSESSED
3	TRAFFIC
4	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	CARTA ALAS
2	ALAS DOSE

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	CARTA ALAS
2	TRAFFIC
3	ALAS DOSE
4	THE MUMMY RETURNS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
2	ALAS DOSE
3	CARTA ALAS
4 (DTS EX)	TRAFFIC

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THX DOLBY dts SDDS

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Warner Music holds CD, casette sale

WARNER Music Philippines is holding the "Best Sellers, Best Price" sale featuring 40 albums.

All available CDs are going for as low as P280 and cassettes for as low as P80, according to Warner Music Philippines.

The albums include those of Bread, America, Christopher Cross, Lobo, Seals & Crofts, James Ingram, Led Zeppelin, James Taylor, the Doobie Brothers, the Everly Brothers, Madonna, The Corrs, and others.

The sale is going on until June 28 at SM Record outlets in Makati, Megamall and North Edsa, Odyssey XL Megamall and Filinvest, Music One Makati and Megamall, New Radio City SM Southmall and North Edsa, Musikland Ali Mall and at Landmark.

'Jazzathon' at Rockwell

CITY LITE 88.3 features the finest jazz and groove meisters in three hours of the grooviest music in "City Lite Urban Jazzathon."

Parliament Syndicate. Passage and K-St. perform in the Jazzathon at the Mall Park of the Rockwell Power Plant tomorrow. Thursday, from 9 p.m. to 12 midnight.

For information, please call 631-8803.

Auditions

PARAGON Pas Artists and Gems announces open auditions for its forthcoming stage play, Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett's "The Diary of Anne Frank."

Audition is now going on at Paragon office, 3/F Chemphil Bldg., 851 Arnaiz Ave., Makati City.

For details, call Eric Beja at 810-0811 or text at 0917-441-8967.

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❷ KAMASUTRA 2001
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❺ ALAS DOSE
❻ TRAFFIC
❼ ANGEL EYES

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❷ CARTA ALAS
❸ TRAFFIC
❹ ANGEL EYES
❺ ALAS DOSE
❻ UNDER REGULAR MAINTENANCE

BACOLOD
(034)441-0453

❶ THE MUMMY RETURNS
❷ 3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
❸ TRAFFIC
❹ SPY KIDS
❺ ATTACK FORCE
❻ UNDER REGULAR MAINTENANCE

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	ALAS DOSE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	CARTA ALAS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	ANGEL EYES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	TRAFFIC
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KAMASUTRA 2001
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURNS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	CARTA ALAS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MALIKOT ANG AGOS NG TUBIG / TALK DIRTY
ODEON	MUMMY RETURNS
ODEON-2	KAMASUTRA 2001
ROBEN	DALAWA SA PARAISO NI EVA
TANDEM-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	SNATCH / BAIT
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	CARTA ALAS
QUEZON-1	MUMMY RETURNS
REMAR	MUMMY RETURNS
REMAR-2	DALAWA SA PARAISO NI EVA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED
CINEMA-2	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	TRAFFIC
CINEMA-2	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-3	15 MINUTES
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-6	THE POSSESSED
CINEMA-7	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	TRAFFIC
CINEMA-12	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-14	VALENTINE
CINEMA-15	KAMASUTRA 2001
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-2	TRAFFIC
CINEMA-3	ANGEL EYES
CINEMA-4	THE MUMMY RETURNS
CINEMA-5	CUT AWAY
CINEMA-6	THE MUMMY RETURNS

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Coastal mall	
1	BODY TO BODY
2	LAGARISTA
4	BAIT

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'Pearl Harbor' censored for foreign audiences

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood studio executives were unavailable Wednesday to comment on reports that the blockbuster summer movie "Pearl Harbor" had several inflammatory scenes—including a speech calling the Japanese cowardly—deleted in the version shipped to other countries.

The movie industry publication Variety and other reports quote unnamed sources as saying that the scene, along with a speech knocking the Germans, was deleted from versions to be shown in German and Japanese theaters.

The reports, again citing unnamed sources, said the cuts were made to avoid losing audience and revenues for the special effects extravaganza slated for a Friday US release.

A significant portion of a movie's overall earnings can come from ticket sales in foreign markets.

Although the movie plays up to US patriotism, a spokesperson for Disney in Los Angeles admitted that the studio, which produced the movie was aware of foreign sensibilities.

"There was a sensitivity to avoid needlessly opening old war wounds," said the spokesperson, who asked that he not be named. "But I don't know if that wound up affecting the editing process."

A spokesperson for Buena Vista, the studio that co-produced Pearl Harbor, said movie executives were en route from a $5-million debut party staged on a US aircraft carrier in Pearl Harbor Monday, and were unavailable for comment on the reports.

The movie centers on the sneak attack on the US Hawaiian base, but then concludes with the US getting even with a later bombing raid on Japan.

AFP

Kirk Douglas son sues psychiatrist

LOS ANGELES—The youngest son of actor Kirk Douglas is suing his former psychiatrist, alleging he prescribed dangerous drugs that when mixed with alcohol produced a "lethal cocktail."

Eric Douglas, 42, claims Dr. William Leader should have taken into consideration that he was an alcoholic when prescribing the drugs, according to the lawsuit filed Wednesday.

The actor, Michael Douglas's half-brother, claims the drugs contributed to his mental and physical problems, including feelings of suicide and a cardiac arrest, the lawsuit states.

Leader treated Douglas for 10 years for his addiction to cocaine and other drugs.

Among the drugs prescribed were Klonopin for seizures, pain reliever Vicodin, ES and Xanax, used to treat nervousness and tension, according to the suit.

Douglas—"The Golden Child" and "The Flamingo Kid"—"experienced, on one occasion, cardiac arrest, then resuscitation, and, on two other occasions, mental deterioration to the extreme of suicide attempts," the lawsuit states.

"The combination of alcohol and Leader-prescribed drugs was, in truth, a lethal cocktail."

Douglas is now hospitalized, unable to work and requires 24-hour care. He seeks $50,000 in general damages, plus unspecified special damages.

AFP

Martin Sheen gets award–and protest

PHILADELPHIA—Actor Martin Sheen found himself the target of a demonstration Wednesday as he stopped here to collect an award for his work on civil rights for immigrants.

Sheen, a self-described "radical" Catholic who portrays President Jeb Bartlet on television's "The West Wing," was at a hotel Wednesday night along with anti-war priest Daniel Berrigan.

Sheen and Berrigan—whom the actor has called his "mentor"—were given the SOLAS award by the Philadelphia Immigration Resource Center.

Outside, meanwhile, some 100 supporters of the family of slain city Police Officer Daniel Faulkner picketed.

Sheen, 60, is among many celebrities who have taken up the cause of the man convicted of Faulkner's 1981 killing: Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Abu-Jamal remains on Pennsylvania's death row, despite international efforts to get his conviction overturned.

Sheen said he was sorry he had not had a chance to talk to the demonstrators.

"I'm never bothered by demonstrators," he said. "I've been one myself."

AFP

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SPY KIDS - G 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:55, 7:50, 9:45	TRAFFIC - P 13 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00	ANGEL EYES - P 13 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
MUMMY RETURNS - P 13 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10	CUT AWAY - P 13 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	MUMMY RETURNS - P 13 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

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Two young men (Matt Damon and Henry Thomas) celebrate the recent ending of World War II by riding out of their native Texas into the wild west, meeting friends and fellow adventurers along the way. Once they reach Mexico, they become smitten with a young woman (Penelope Cruz) who is the daughter of a ranch owner. As foreboding clouds threaten their so-far sunny skies, the men throw themselves headlong into danger.

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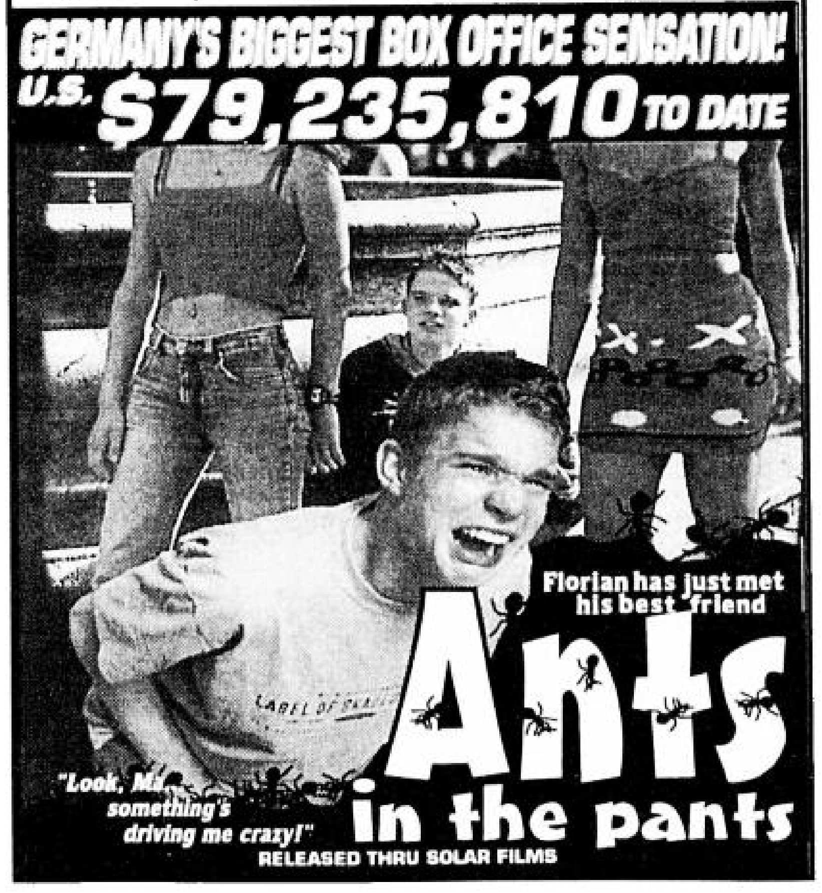
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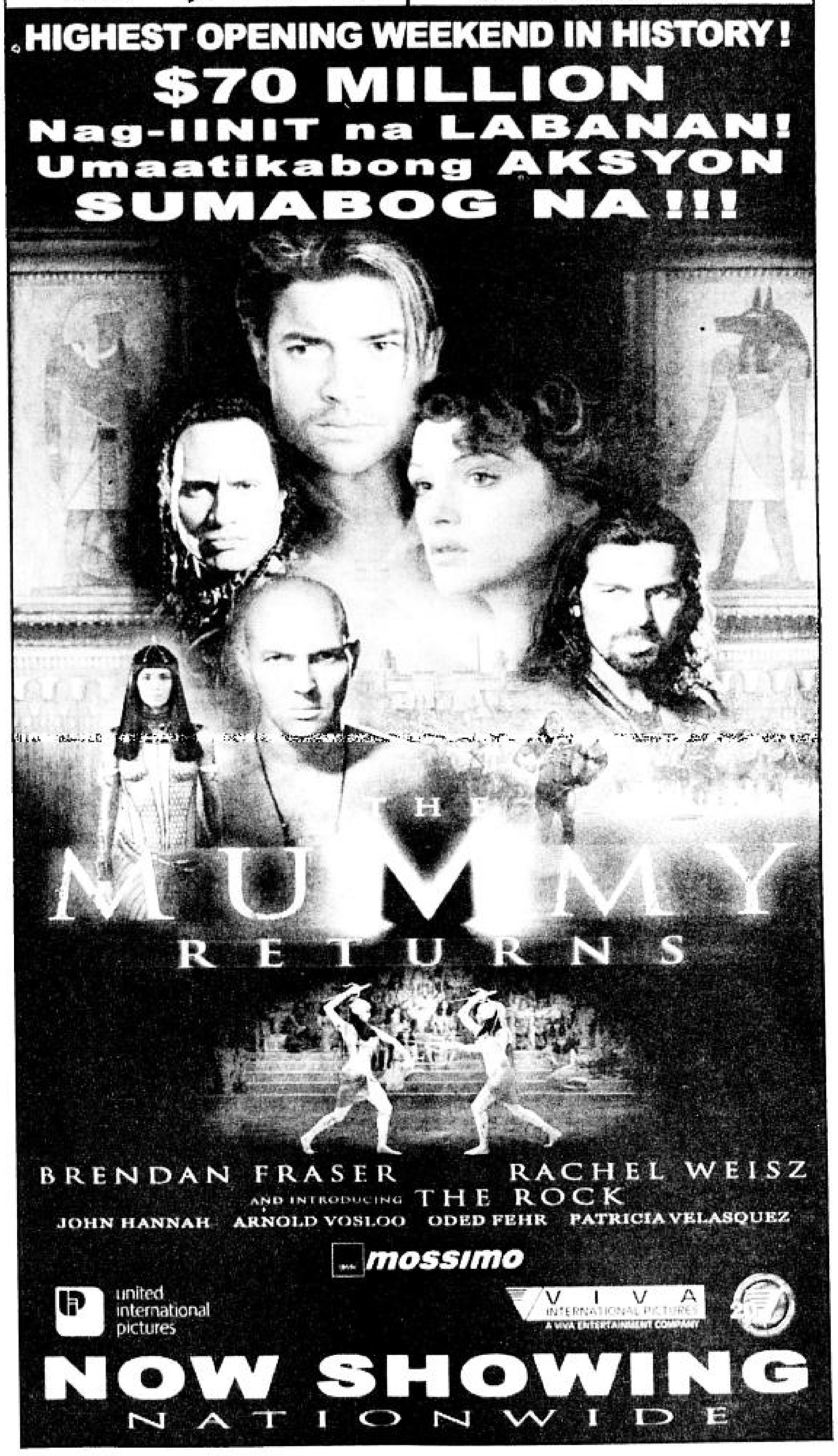
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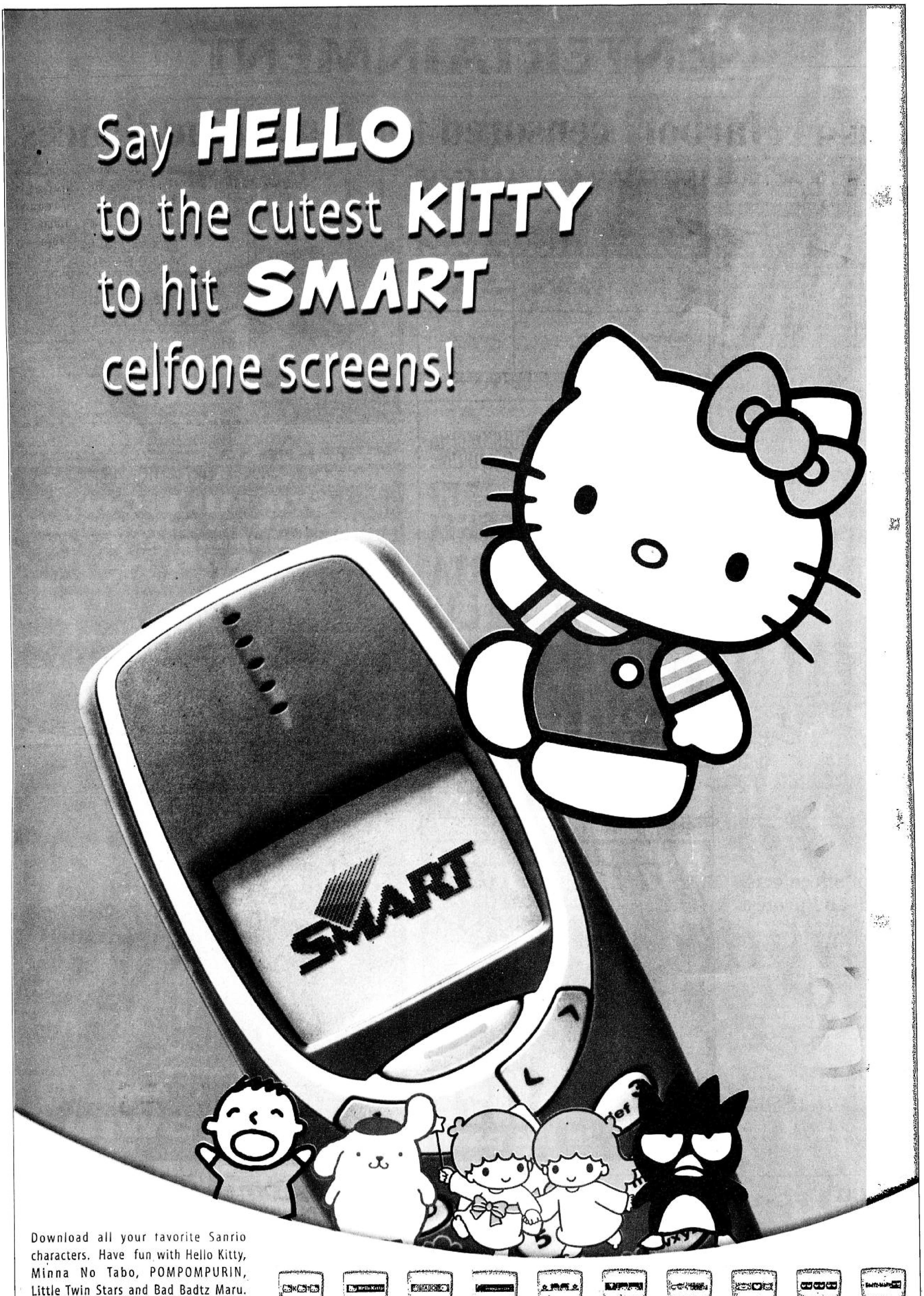

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Tax hike on $ deposits, OBU loans seen

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to raise more than P10 billion in additional revenues by increasing the taxes on foreign currency-denominated loan transactions of offshore banking units in the country and on interest earnings of foreign currency deposits.

Documents from the Department of Finance showed that the government was considering subjecting foreign currency loan transactions of OBUs and certain depository banks to the regular corporate income tax of 32 percent, instead of the 10 percent currently applied. The move is expected to generate for the national coffers P6.36 billion.

At the same time, the government plans to double the tax on the interest earnings of foreign currency deposits, from 7.5 percent to 15 percent, to raise another P4.03 billion.

The Bankers Association of the Philippines, the umbrella organization of the country's more than 50 commercial banks, posed no objection to the first but has strongly opposed the move to raise the tax on the interest earnings of dollar deposits.

The BAP warned that such a move would adversely affect the country's capability to raise foreign currency deposits, which serve as secondary reserves that can be tapped by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to augment the official international reserves.

The Offshore Bankers Association of the Philippines, for its part, has asked the government to put on hold any tax adjustment on the OBUs' foreign currency-denominated lending transactions.

Aside from raising additional revenues, the DOF believes that subjecting foreign currency loans of OBUs and certain depository banks to the regular corporate income tax of 32 percent will address the tax arbitrage problem in the country's local banking system. While the OBU loans are slapped a 10-percent tax, transactions of local banks are charged the regular corporate income tax of 32 percent.

"The distinction between FCDU operations and the other operations of local banks for purposes of taxation will be removed," the finance department noted.

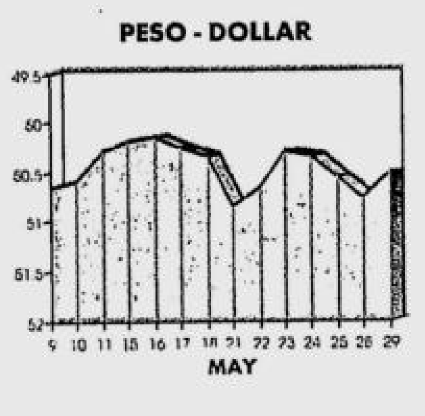
The department also said the move would also help simplify tax administration.

The department said "there was little justification to continue with the high differential between the tax on peso deposits and that on foreign currency deposits.

"There could be some justification in giving incentives to foreign currency deposits if the country is experiencing a BOP (balance of payments) problem but there is no BOP urgency to merit a tax break. From the fiscal standpoint, the incentive is an unnecessary drain on government revenue," it added.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

Peso-Dollar Rate

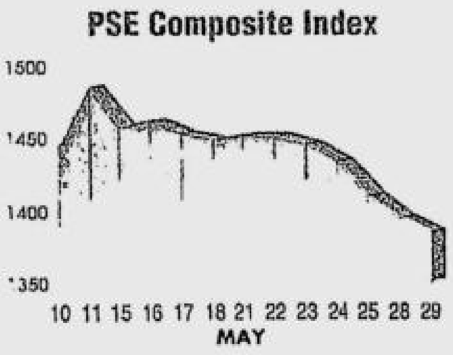
P50.50 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 29, 2001

¥120.40 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 120.40 as of 5 p.m., May 29, 2001

GOLD:$276.60/277.10
per ounce Hong Kong, May 29, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares down



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS ended slightly lower yesterday as the Abu Sayyaf kidnapping drama and other domestic concerns continued to gnaw at sentiment and kept many investors sidelined, traders said.

The main index closed down 9.69 points, or 0.69 percent, at 1,385.43 on turnover of P508.89 million.

"There are still some jitters over the hostage-taking (in the southern Philippines) as well as perceived stalling on the power legislation," Mutual Fund Management Company of the Philippines Efren Cruz said.

In the most active list, International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) ended its sharp run-up of the past month, shedding 12 centavos to P2.20. Before yesterday's decline, the stock had risen almost 100 percent from its closing level of P1.14 on April 30.

Late on Monday, ICTSI confirmed it had reached agreement to sell the bulk of its offshore businesses to a unit of Hong Kong-based Hutchison Whampoa for an undisclosed sum.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. also came under pressure, shedding P15 to P645. Traders said there was still some disquiet over the restructuring deal reached by its mobile unit, Pilipino Telephone Corp., with creditors.

Reuters

BOOSTING THE MARKET

Listing of privatization bonds OKd

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange and the Bureau of Treasury have agreed to list P8 billion worth of the government's "Progress" or privatization bonds on the fixed income board of the local bourse on June 22.

In a press briefing yesterday, PSE president Ramon T. Garcia said the listing was agreed upon during a meeting with National Treasurer Sergio Edeza last week.

Progress Bonds are five-year bonds issued by the national government in August last year with a coupon rate of 13.875 percent per year payable quarterly. The bondholders are given the option to exchange the bonds for shares in government corporations undergoing privatization or the cash equivalent.

Garcia said the move was part of the PSE's efforts to offer more fixed-income instruments to investors amid the weak market sentiment.

This will be the second batch of fixed-income instruments to be traded in the PSE's fixed-income board. Some P30.35 billion worth of small-denominated Treasury (SDT) bonds maturing in 2004 were listed on the PSE in July last year. These instruments, however, have not been actively traded at the stock market.

However, Garcia said he was expecting trading of fixed-income instruments to improve as the fixed-income board of the PSE could serve as an alternative investment destination for investors amid the weak equities market.

He announced that all PSE member-brokerage houses would be accredited to trade fixed-income instruments. Trading of these instruments has been made possible by the recent upgrading of the system used by the PSE. Prior to the upgrading, only six brokers were accredited to offer these instruments on retail.

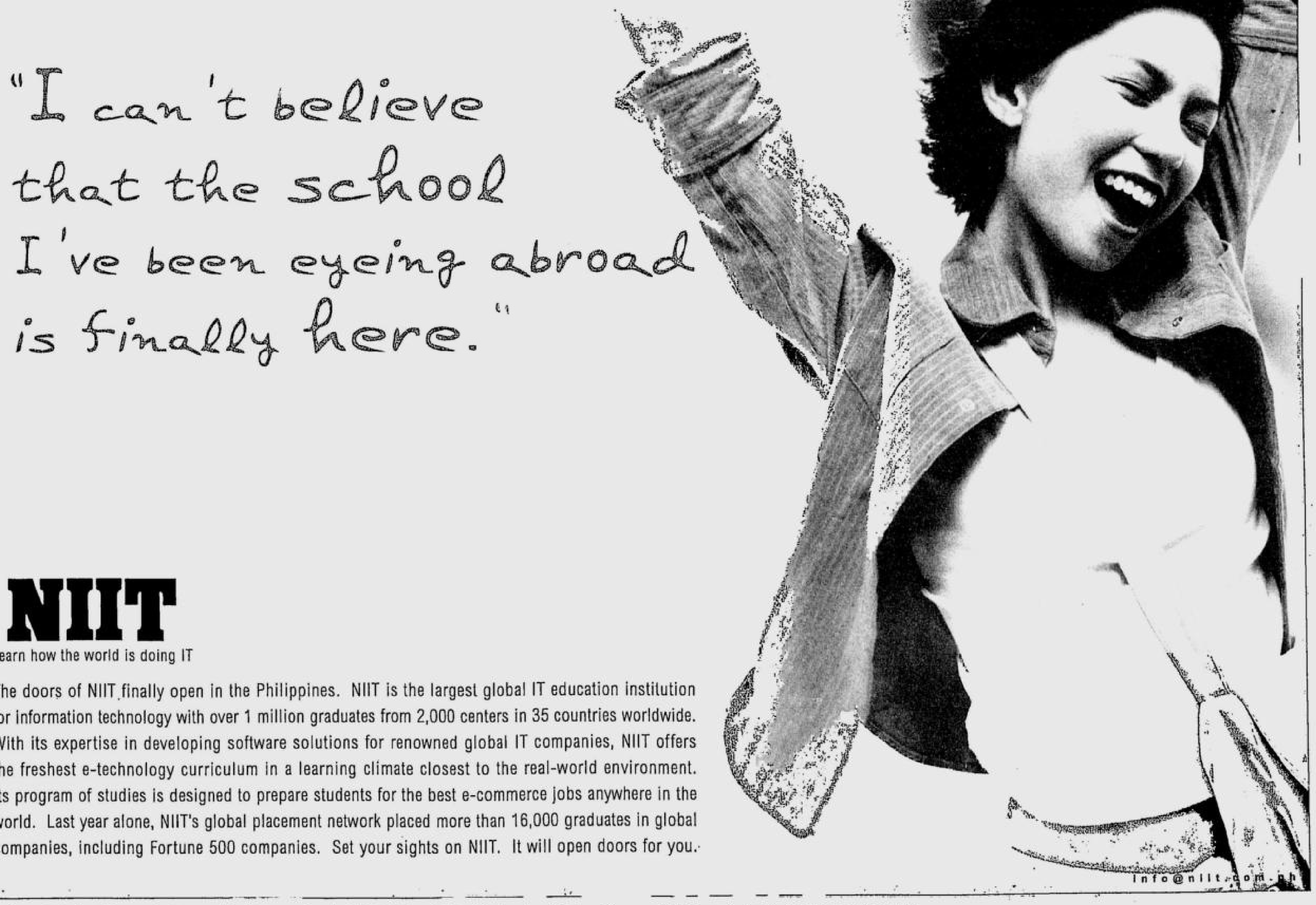
"With the understanding with the BTr that we will handle the retail transactions of fixed-income trading, we can now expect higher trading volume," Garcia said.

The PSE chief said the understanding with the BTr was that all retail trading, involving transactions worth below P10 million, would be coursed through the fixed-income board of the exchange. Those offered to institutional investors, worth P10 million and above, can be traded by banks over-the-counter.

Garcia said First Metro Investment Corp., the investment banking arm of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., would be the underwriter for the new listing. First Metro likewise acted as the issue manager and underwriter of these bonds, which were issued by the government in August last year.

First Metro believes that this new instrument is exciting "because it is a hybrid government securities instrument convertible to equity stakes on state assets up for privatization."

"The innovative convertibility feature of these instruments makes it ideal for PSE listing as it is cross-linked to equities," First Metro told the PSE in its proposal for the listing.



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Power bill to put Napocor out of its miseries

SPECIAL REPORT

BY RAUL C. DANCEL AND CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

(Third of a series)

THE OMNIBUS Power Bill is designed to put the National Power Corp. out of its miseries.

Napocor was created as a nonstock, government-owned corporation in 1936 with the issuance of Commonwealth Act 120. The agency's original mandate was to develop the country's hydropower potentials. Its charter was later amended to include geothermal, oil, coal and other sources of energy. After two decades, Napocor was converted into a wholly government-owned stock corporation with the approval of Republic Act 2641.

A major turning point for Napocor happened in November 1972, when then President Ferdinand Marcos, fresh from securing dictatorial powers through martial rule, nationalized the power sector. He issued Presidential Decree 40, which gave Napocor the task of building power plants and transmission facilities in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. It was also given the mandate to operate a single integrated network of power plants that would supply private and local government-owned utilities and cooperatives throughout the country. With one signature, Marcos made Napocor an instant monopoly—and one lazy behemoth.

As a state-run corporation under a dictatorial regime, it had no pressing need to make a profit because it wasn't accountable to anyone. If it fell short on cash, the government was there to bail it out. It should have been accountable to taxpayers, who were, in a way, its shareholders, but no one took that concept seriously.

During the martial law years, small private and municipal power systems were linked and eventually taken over by large utilities and electric cooperatives. In 1979, Napocor bought the Manila Electric Co.'s thermal power plants and integrated them into its Luzon power grid line. The purchase gave Napocor 90 percent of the power supply business in the country.

With the huge business it controlled and a virtual immunity from corporate accountability, Napocor became a milking cow for corrupt government officials and contractors who were out to make a quick buck. Highly overvalued contracts, kickbacks, ghost supplies and skimmed inventories were not uncommon.

Crisis years

Without competition and an incentive to be more efficient, Napocor was caught flat-footed when the power crisis years of the late '80s hit. It had no way to cope with a shortage that it should have anticipated.

Soon after Marcos was driven out of Malacañang in 1986, the Aquino administration mothballed the Bataan nuclear power plant because of the wholesale racketeering involved in its construction. The nuclear power plant was a key ingredient in the Marcos administration's plan to raise its capacity to produce electricity. Without it, the country lost some 620 megawatts in potential output.

Another spoiler was a severe drought that hit the country, which rendered Napocor's hydroelectric power plants nearly useless.

Political uncertainties created by the revolutionary transition from a dictatorial to a democratic government, meanwhile, discouraged international creditors from lending money to support the Philippines' energy infrastructure. Long-term loans, which were what the country needed, became very scarce.

POWER/ B5

Philippine Stock Exchange

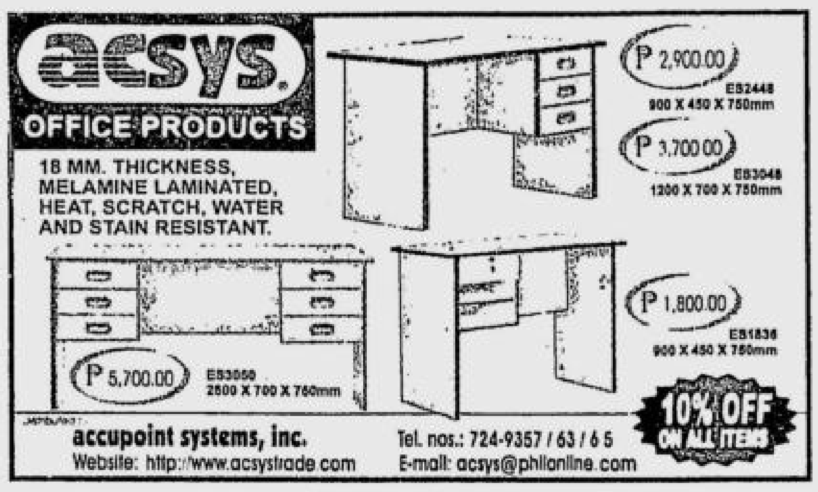
(As of Tuesday, May 29, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	16,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	1,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	73.5	74.5	73.5	74.5	179,900
China Banking Corp.	630	630	630	630	100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41	41.5	41	41.5	24,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	212	213	210	213	480,960
Philippine National Bank	47	48.5	47	47.5	39,300
Security Bank Corp.	19.5	20.5	19.5	20.5	1,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	25	25	25	25	2,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	128,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	230	248	230	248	340
Manulife Financial Corp.	1300	1310	1300	1310	3,940
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1080	1090	1080	1090	6,370
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	55,500
Diversified Fin. Network	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	2,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.41	1,090,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	685	685	685	685	300
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	800,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	32,000
Piltel	0.47	0.5	0.47	0.5	50.000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	660	660	645	645	63,010
Ivantage Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	690,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.042	0 043	0.04	0.04	90,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	42	42	41	41.5	73,800
Manila Electric Co. B	60	60	59.5	60	769,300
Petron Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.82	1.84	3,279,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0 9	0.9	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	165,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.3	2.42	2.18	2.2	42,044,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1 24	1 24	1.24	1 24	11,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc	0 36	0 36	0 35	0 35	340,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	381,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2 12	2.12	2.12	2.12	700,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.2	3.3	3 2	3.3	736,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13	12.75	12.75	319.700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	27.5	28	27.5	28	186,000
RFM Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.06	1.08	674,000
San Miguel Corp. A	44	44	41	41.5	38,200
San Miguel Corp. B	47	47	46	46	70.800
Universal Robina Corp.	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.5	342,000
Vitarich Corp.	0 5	0 5	0.5	0.5	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	7	7	7	7	4,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.7	0.7	0.67	0.68	120,000
Ayala Corp.	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	1,512,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.5	1,467,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.75	12	11.75	11.75	1,100
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.78	0.8	0.78	0.8	50,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.48	0.52	0.48	0.48	4,770,000
APC Group Inc.	0.16	0 16	0.16	0.16	330,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.24	0.24	0.2	0.2	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	3,329,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.32	1,000,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	50,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.5	0.61	0.5	0.61	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1	770,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24	24	23.25	23.5	103,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	290,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Ionics Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	16,800
Ipeople Inc.	0.8	0.85	0.8	0 85	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	84,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.7	92,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.72	0.73	1,120,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	2,100,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	2	2	1.6	1.6	252,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	80,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	20,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	90,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	5,000
Music Corp.	2.46	2.46	2.4	2.4	63,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.5	0.63	0.5	0.6	60,000
Pryce Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	15,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.42	0.45	0.42	0.45	830,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	730,000
Manila Jockey Club	13	13	13	13	1,600
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	39	39	39	39	49,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	4,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	495	495	495	495	20,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	660	660	660	660	100
Jollibee Warrants	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	3,500
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.003	0.003	0.0028	0.0028	54,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.033	0 033	0.031	0.032	24,100,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.2	7	6.2	7	11,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.75	4.8	13,686,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	270,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	2,950,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	110,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.3	0.3	2,520,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.02	2.02	2	2.02	8,565,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	30,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	4,798,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.09	0 09	0.09	0.09	200,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1	1	1	1	60.000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	19,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	4,500,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	1,040,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	530,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	14,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	25,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	4,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	400,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	50,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.018	18,700,000
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	5,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	14,800,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	100,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0 15	0.15	0.15	50,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	883,610	130,594,140.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	242,111,010	264,095,165.00
PRO	33,129,000	114,931,600.00
Mining	50,599,000	797,000.00
OIL	41,680,000	598,300.00
GRAND TOTALS:	368,402,620	511,016,205.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	598 06	UP 4.24
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,927.56	DOWN 13.69
PRO	507.21	DOWN 8.43
Mining	1,142.96	DOWN 64.66
OIL	1.42	DOWN 0.04
All Shares Index	753 62	DOWN 4.32
Composite	1,385.43	DOWN 9.69

NO. OF ADVANCES: 16; NO. OF DECLINES: 52; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 48; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 116; NO. OF TRADES: 2,986



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FEATURES
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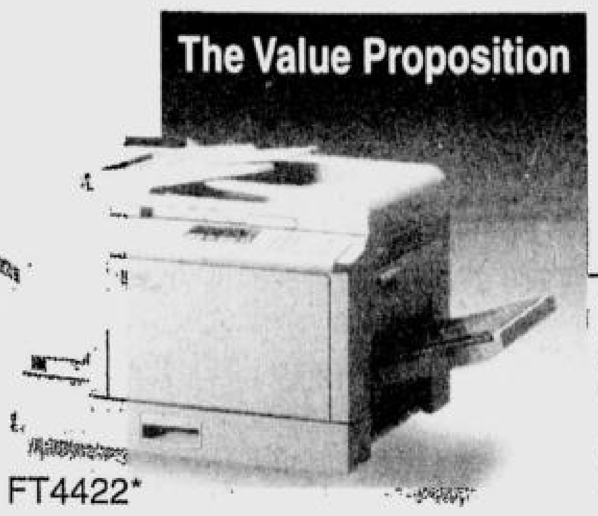
- Maximum copy size: A3 (11' x 17')
- 250 sheet tray + 80 sheet bypass tray
- 10 users code
- Energy saver

The Price Performer
FT4615*
FEATURES
- 15 copies per minute
- Reducer/Enlarger 50% - 200%
- Maximum copy size: A3 (11' x 17')
- 500 sheet tray + 80 sheet bypass tray
- 10 user codes
- Energy saver



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FEATURES
- 22 copies per minute
- Reducer/Enlarger 50% - 200%
- Maximum copy size: A3 (11' x 17')
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- 20 user codes
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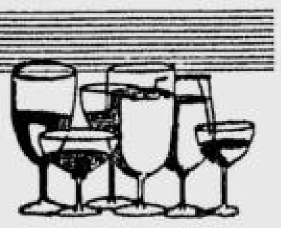
PNB parachutists

COCKTALES



By Victor C. Agustin

DESPITE the dim prospects of suitable employment in the banking and financial sector, about 1,200 employees of the Philippine National Bank—as against a management target of 1,000—have filed for early retirement.

Topping those who have decided to take the plunge include three of the 18 senior vice presidents—Teodoro Banaag (treasury), Jose Ferro (trust banking), and Genielle Romano (human resource)—as well as the bank's former spokesperson, ex-newsman Claro Fernandez.

Majority of those who have done so have been with the bank since its Escolta days, attracted no doubt by the 1.2-2 months-for-every-year-of-service severance package. Not including the subsidiaries, PNB has about 6,300 employees in its pre-early retirement roll.

Incidentally, those on the market for bank-repossessed real estate properties should check out the PNB's ROPOA list.

The bank now holds 19,000 pieces of real estate of various sizes, makes and descriptions scattered from Batanes to Tawi-Tawi, including about 23 hectares of Tagaytay land left behind by Dante Tan of BW Resources, who, as you know, hastily parachuted into fugitive land after his idol/patron was swept out of Malacañang.

(Very few people know that Cory Aquino's spokesperson, Deedee Siytangco, was among the stable of PR consultants that "helped" Dante Tan.)

Tan's disappearance left another Tan, Andrew, who is not related, holding the proverbial empty bag since 70 percent of BW Resources shareholdings had been pledged to Andrew Tan's Megaworld Properties.

Not only is the P600-million behest loan to BW Resources past due—PNB director and Tan nominee Enrique Filamor clarified that the facility was granted before the assumption of the Lucio Tan group to the bank; it has also become under-collateralized with the collapse of the BW Resources' share price.

Another past due-loan is the P300 million granted to San Jose Builders for then Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim's Pabahay sa Riles program.

San Jose Builders is controlled by construction magnate Reghis Romero, who, as may be gleaned from the pre-news blackout reports, is in dire need of a bullet-proof vest and an escape parachute from his Abu Sayyaf holiday hosts.

Short takes

- DOS PALMAS, the Palawan island resort that has now shot itself into international prominence because of the Abu Sayyaf kidnapping, is owned by a local businessman by the name of Alvin Lim.
- THE MANILA RTC judge hearing the deportation case against publisher/new congressman Mark Jimenez, Guillermo Puruganan, was a longtime municipal judge of San Juan until promoted to his present position by former President Joseph Estrada.
- ANTONIO Lopez, the pioneering Manila bureau chief of Asiaweek, has resigned from the Hongkong-based news magazine effective May 28. Lopez could have had the press secretary's position during the Estrada day had he wanted to; luckily, the veteran in him resisted the temptation.

Heard through the grapevine

A GROUP of Wincorp creditors (does that include you, Manuel Tan?) has assembled a dossier against former Wincorp principal, former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu, listing seven US properties, complete with copies of "grant deeds," allegedly belonging to the Espiritus.

The package, a copy of which was sent to the INQUIRER, even includes photographs of a snow-bound lakeside retreat in California's Lake Arrowhead.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

COUNTRY SHARES
AS OF MAY 30, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	2.0M/2,100,000*	-
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	815,000	820,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB	100,000	110,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	400,000
CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	140,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS	210,000	215,000
CLUB FILIPINO	300,000	330,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	425,000	450,000*/700,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	260,000	270,000/350,000*/450,000**
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	400,000/445,000	405,000/450,000*
METRO CLUB A/B*	160,000	175,000/180,000*
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,800,000	4,000,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	825,000/950,000*	850,000/980,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	270,000/600,000**	280,000/425,000*
QUEZON CITY SPORTS	230,000	235,000
RIVIERA GOLF A/B*	250,000	260,000/420,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	845,000	850,000
TAGAYTAY H'LANDS CO/GOLF*	445,000/1,100,00*	455,000/1,100,000*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	850,000	870,000
VALLE VERDE	175,000	
WACK WACK	9,500,000	9,000,000

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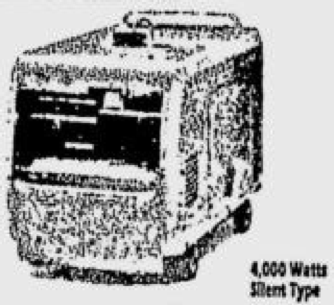

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You don't have to remain bald and appear much older. Restore the hair you've lost and regain your youthful look . Call or visit Svenson now!

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intel inside pentium III

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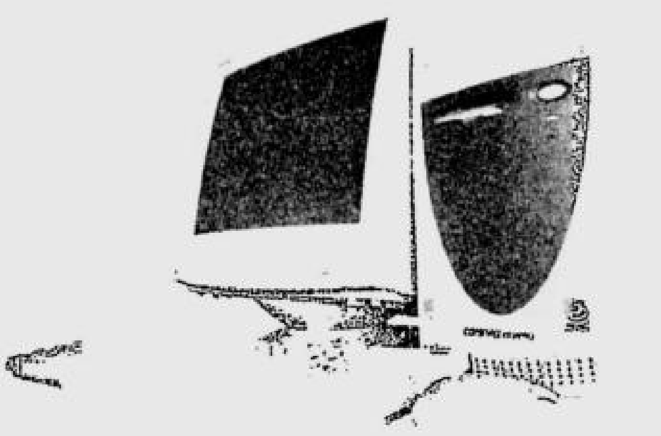

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PROMO PERIOD: May 25 to May 31, 2001.

PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO.1578, SERIES OF 2001

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

E-MAIL: aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Historical ingot at BPI

PHILIPPINE banking reaches new heights this year as the country's oldest bank marks 150 proud years of financial strength, stability and growth.

Imbued with a heritage of excellence and leadership, the Bank of the Philippine Islands celebrates an extraordinary milestone, having set the pace of banking in the country. For, indeed, the history of BPI is a chronology of Philippine banking itself.

PESOS FUERTES
THE FIRST BANKNOTE IN THE PHILIPPINES AND ASIA 1852

To commemorate this special event, BPI is issuing a premium collector's item – the BPI 150th anniversary ingot, a commemorative coin crafted in gold and silver. These collector's pieces are minted in two troy ounces of .999 gold or fine silver by the Franklin Mint.

A rare historical piece, the BPI ingot is the embodiment of the highest standards of banking excellence and BPI's basic principles of integrity and outstanding service. An investment worth keeping, availing of the prized commemorative item is like owning a part of Philippine banking history.

The doors of banking opened in 1851 when Banco Español de Isabella II, BPI's forerunner, spurred economic activities as it commenced operations to meet the public's banking needs.

The Bank forged ahead, undaunted by crises and upheavals, continuously exploring areas to provide convenient banking services through cutting-edge technology.

Through a century and a half, the country's first financial institution established a reputation of unchallenged leadership in the industry. BPI has remained the most technologically advanced bank as it built on its traditional strengths in the pursuit of innovations in products, services and systems.

In its 150 years of existence, the Bank has blazed trails to serve the ever-changing demands and needs of the banking public. It has lived up to its reputation as a leader, continuously introducing a wide range of technologically superior products and services.

Electronic banking is synonymous to BPI in the local banking community. A trendsetter in convenience banking, BPI is driven by the need to face the challenges of the new century.

Over the years, BPI has stood as a pillar of growth and stability in the banking sector. As it celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, it renews its commitment to place quality, excellence and innovation at the core of its operations.

What better way to celebrate 150 years of record-breaking achievements in banking than having a commemorative item to remember history by? The BPI 150th Anniversary Ingot—it's history in your hands. For information call 816-9749.

MABINI AWARDEE

Jesus Docot receives from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Milagros Drilon, chair of the Awards Committee, the 2000 Apolinario Mabini Awards for (Disabled) Filipino of the Year in rites held at Malacanang.

Business seminars every Saturday

MODERN, practical three-Saturday seminars will be held starting May 26 up to June 9 on managerial accounting and financial control. Also, starting May 26 up to June 9 a site development and mass housing seminar will be held.

These two seminars will be held every Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. A third program is a five-day course on creative salesmanship and client relations from May 21-30, every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. These programs are being held at the Executive Development Academy (EDA). For more details, call 521-8236, 523-6465, or fax 526-4789.

Firm awards good interns with employment contract

THE STUDENTS report regularly and actively participate in the company's actual projects, which may involve system design, development, testing and implementation.

At the end of the internship period, the participating companies often express their satisfaction with the interns by awarding them employment contracts even before graduation.

This unique industry-academe linkage program in the country is a pioneer concept started by the East Asia College of Information Technology (Eacit). Eacit is a partnership of IBM Philippines, SM Shoemart Foundation, Far Eastern University (FEU) and Intelligent Wave, Inc., (IWI-Japan).

By streamlining East Asia's internship program to make it more relevant to the business and industry sector, the student interns get involved in actual, concrete industry-based responsibilities, complete with deadline pressures and other attendant concerns existent in a corporate setting.

This earnest interaction between East Asia and affiliate companies brings about very important inputs which enable East Asia to fine-tune its academic programs in order to come up with a better, more relevant, industry-based curricula for Bachelor of Science in computer and information science (BSCIS) and in computer engineering (BSCOE).

With computers radically changing architecture and design, coping with the challenges of an information-based and computer-oriented society demands from the computer professionals immediate response to the dynamism that is inherent in the field.

Eacit is located at N. Reyes Street, Sampaloc, Manila, with telephone numbers 735-5643/736-0015 to 19.

HP NEW BUSINESS PARTNER

Hewlett-Packard (HP), the world's leading provider of digital imaging, printing and computing solutions, recently signed Tridel Technologies as its newest commercial reseller in an effort to increase the availability of HP products in the local market. Under the partnership agreement, Tridel is licensed to sell HP's various product lines such as personal computers, servers, printers and storage products. Photo shows HP small-to-medium business country manager Ireen Catane (center, right) and Tridel sales manager Joy Gaela (center, left) sealing the contract with a handshake as HP marketing director Jacqui Picart (extreme right) and HP final tier manager Anabelle Co (extreme left) look on.

ALL ASIALIFE'S MDRT QUALIFIERS

All AsiaLife Assurance Corporation honored their successful Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) Qualifiers in a glittery awards night and recognition dinner last Valentine at the New World Renaissance Hotel. MDRT is the most prestigious international organization of the top six percent of life underwriters worldwide. In photo during the awarding were (from row, from left) vice presidents Ferdie Recio, administration; Lulu Sison, actuary; MDRT first-time qualifiers Nonong Tayo and Virgie Ardina; five-time MDRT qualifier Rolly Villalon and Victor P. Quisumbing, president and CEO. At the back are SVPs Mike Montes, marketing and Ricky Alberto, sales.

Flavors of the world–on a pizza

CALIFORNIA Pizza Kitchen, established in 1985, is famous for introducing flavors and tastes from around the world—on a pizza. CPK is currently the leading casual dining chain in the premium pizza segment with over 108 restaurants in the world.

CPK's innovative line of pizzas are made on a delicious crust and hearth-baked to perfection. Try the CPK Original BBQ Chicken Pizza, with flavorful slices of BBQ chicken, smoked gouda, onions and cilantro on a tangy BBQ sauce. Or for the more adventurous, there's the CPK Peking Duck Pizza, with roast duck breast, mozzarella cheese, soy-glazed shitake mushroom and crispy wonton on ginger-hoisin sauce.

But CPK is more than just pizza. They also serve a hearty and flavorful menu of distinctive items like the Chicken-Tequila Fettuccine, BBQ Chicken Chopped Salad, Tortilla Spring Rolls and the famous Key Lime Pie.

So break away from the usual pizza you have delivered at home. Visit California Pizza Kitchen at Glorietta and Alabang and let your taste buds feast on the various flavors of CPK's pizzas. But remember, after your meal, keep your breath cool and fresh with new Astring-O-Sol ready-to-use mouthwash.

Watch out for the next Astring-O-Sol Ice Guaranteed Cool Restaurant Feature for the latest updates on the coolest dining spots in Manila.

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SENTRICON PRODUCT PRESENTATION

The Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System recently held a product presentation during the Golf Tournament of Architects at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club. Shown in photo is the authorized firm Sanitech-Sentricon Advantage sales team of (from left) Leo Ordanozo, Del Gandia, Gennie De Guia, architect Gene Go, architects' Golf Club director; Ela Dillague, marketing manager of Dow AgroSciences and architect Sonny Esguerra, Jr., Architects' Golf Club VP administration. To know more about the Sentricon System call 867-9191.

TOP BREEDER RECEIVES VISITORS

Well-known gamefowl breeder Lance de la Torre (second from left) is shown in photo with Ninja Gamefowl Feeds representatives in his farm in Talisay, Bacolod City. Others in photo are (from left) Grains Handlers Phils., Inc. sales manager David Co, Dr. Castañeda and technical department head Dr. Renato Policarpio.

BITS Clips

Penafrancia in the Bay Area

THE DEVOTEES of Our Lady Virgin of Penafrancia, Inc., through the Nabua Circle, United States, a California-registered non-profit religious organization based in San Leandro, California, is celebrating the 31st anniversary of the Penafrancia fiesta in the Bay Area on Sept. 29. Various programs will highlight the affair, according to its president Rod Castaneda and the overall committee chair Marietta Almazan Tretasco. For more details write to 13862 Tortuga Avenue, San Leandro, California 94577.

Abenson Appliance Quest is back

THE ABENSON Appliance Quest continues its journey with a new partner—Citibank. The Quest is on at Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall May 16 to 30. Abenson highlights its 0-percent interest rate on selected models and special interest promo for all appliances through Citibank's Paylite Installment Plan. For more information call 681-5301 to 05. Visit Abenson Pavilion Mall, Binan, Laguna for selected exhibitors from May 16 to 31 and enjoy Quest perks, too.

Ulen Systems holds seminar

SCIENTISTS say humans use only 3 to 10 percent of their innate abilities. With the proper techniques, we could use more of our untapped powers to improve our lives. Ulen Systems International holds a seminar featuring techniques on cell regeneration, creative consciousness, personal magnetism, natural cycles in life, health, and business, and development of psychic abilities. The seminar will be conducted on June 2, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the AIM conference center, Benavidez Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Call Ulen Systems at 924-2175.

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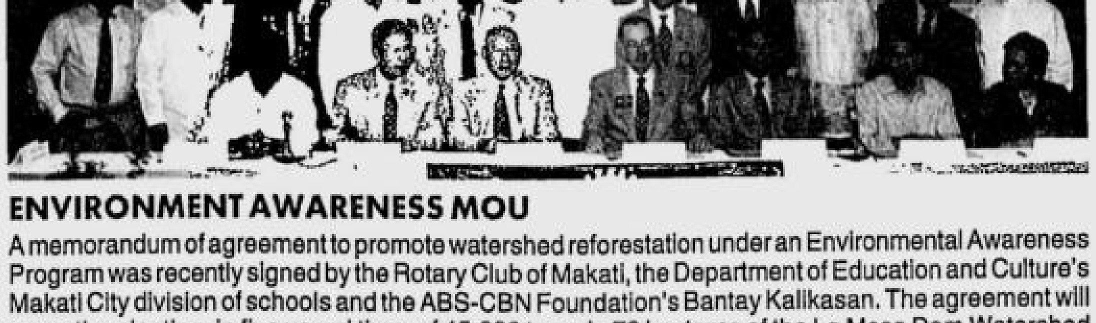
GLAXOSMITHKLINE FREE CLINIC

GlaxoSmithKline provided free medicines to patients during the Mercury Drug "Bigay Lunas" project. GlaxoSmithKline also provided manpower support in 11 sites in various parts of the country, namely Quezon City, Caloocan, Pateros, Cainta, Imus, Dagupan, Baguio, Tuguegarao, La Union, Iloilo and General Santos. GlaxoSmithKline is committed to improve the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer. Above, doctors and nurses attend to a young patient.

DIALYSIS RATES CUT

To celebrate its second anniversary, DAD HealthCare Corporation Dialysis Center, located at 146 West Avenue, Quezon City, has slashed its treatment rates by almost half. Dialysis patients can now avail of the same superior treatment at a much lower cost. For further inquiries, call 926-2821 or 412-2521.



ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS MOU

A memorandum of agreement to promote watershed reforestation under an Environmental Awareness Program was recently signed by the Rotary Club of Makati, the Department of Education and Culture's Makati City division of schools and the ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Kalikasan. The agreement will cover the planting, in five years' time, of 45,000 trees in 72 hectares of the La Mesa Dam Watershed as a joint undertaking of the Rotarians and the principals and students of Makati's 36 schools. Signing for their respective organizations were (from left) Makati Rotary's environment committee chair Rolly Roque, president Roland Young and past Rotary International director Paing Hechanova, ABS-CBN Foundation's Mark Solivan, DECS' Gloria Quinto and Interact's Myreza Gonzales. Witnessing the ceremony were Rotary International president Frank Devlyn (who was visiting the country at the time) and Rotary District 3830 governor Jun Perez (center). Standing at the back were other members of RC Makati's environment committee and Rotary district governors.

Power bill to put Napocor out of its miseries

(From page B2)

The result was a power supply problem that, at first, seemed benign.

To deal with the shortage, then President Corazon Aquino issued in 1987 an order loosening Napocor's grip on the local energy sector. Aquino allowed private corporations to construct power plants that can provide electricity to augment Napocor's capacity. Her order gave rise to "independent power producers."

To make the business of producing electricity viable, Congress approved Republic Act 6597, the build-operate-transfer law. This law gave incentives to the private sector and an assurance of minimum government intervention.

In the late '80s to the early '90s, still with not enough independent power producers supplying Napocor, the power supply problem became a full-blown crisis. Power outages that lasted for about eight to 10 hours a day hit the country. Industries were crippled and the economy stumbled to a crawl.

In 1993, with the Ramos administration now in power, Congress approved the Electricity Power Crisis Act. It gave the President the power to enter into negotiated contracts to hasten the construction of new power plants. That law did the trick, and by the middle part of the '90s, the country again had enough electricity and the economy was again up on its feet.

The entry of independent power producers, however, created new problems. Because of the seriousness of the energy crisis, Napocor was forced to enter into contracts that required it to purchase from these producers a fixed amount over a fixed period of time. The problem was that the power firm overestimated the extent of the crisis. It got stuck with contracts to pay for electricity that it no longer needed.

Napocor suffered another blow when the Asian financial crisis struck in 1997 and 1998. The peso's steep dive from 26.50 to a dollar in 1997 to an average 40 in 1998 nearly doubled Napocor's debts.

In 1995, with Napocor going nowhere but down, Sen. Heherson Alvarez filed a bill seeking to restructure the power sector. Bottom line: Put Napocor out of its miseries.

California we're not

Detractors of the Omnibus Power Bill cites California's experience with deregulation as an argument against it. California is currently experiencing an energy crisis following the deregulation of its power utilities.

Energy Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said California's experience with deregulation is as far away as California is geographically to Manila. Deregulation failed in California because the state put a cap on the distribution companies' prices and barred them from entering into bilateral contracts. The problem was exacerbated by a sharp increase in the prices of natural gas.

"In California, they are in a situation when the spot market prices went up significantly because the distributors had to buy at a high cost and selling at fixed prices, so they started losing money. These distribution firms became so credit unworthy that it came to a point that no generating companies would want to sell to them," Camacho said.

In the Philippines' case, he said, power distributors, like the Manila Electric Co., can enter into five- to 10-year contracts with their suppliers. "By allowing this setup, there would be no supply shortage," he said. He acknowledged, however, that this setup could also encourage connivance between companies that generate and those that distribute electricity.

Fuzzy line

In comments sent to Congress, the National Association of Electricity Consumers warned that the fuzzy line separating power generation and power distribution companies and the power reform bill's silence on this could dampen competition in the industry.

Nasecore president Pete Ilagan said the power reform bill had no provision limiting how much a power distribution company could buy from an affiliate power generation company.

With big conglomerates like the Lopez group owning companies that both generate and distribute electricity, Ilagan warned, competition would be nothing more than a sham.

"Meralco, the country's largest power distribution firm, for instance, now has affiliate companies, such as the Sta. Rita power plant and the Quezon Power Philippines Ltd. There must at least be a limit that they could only source a maximum of 20 percent of their power requirements from their affiliate firms," he stressed.

Camacho said the Department of Energy had been responsive to such concerns. "We are hoping that in the final version of the bill, there should be a 50-percent cap on how much a distribution company could buy from their affiliate generating firms. The rest they could buy from the pool and from other parties through bilateral contracts," he said.

He added that the "Energy Regulatory Commission," which would replace the Energy Regulatory Board, could step in to check cases of predatory pricing and other anti-competitive practices.

Too much protection

Industry players, however, are opposing any limit on how they do business.

"There are already many safeguards in the proposed bill that protect against possible abuse. Furthermore, restrictions will prohibit the participation of many Filipino-owned distribution firms. The industry will be heavily foreign-dominated," First Private Power Corp. president Peter Garrucho, a former trade secretary, said.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter supports First Private Power's position. "Though the company would be exposed to open-access regulation, regulated assets will likely be ring-fenced from non-regulated activities. In post-deregulation, we believe Meralco would be in a good position to benefit from customer synergies with the Lopez group," it said.

The Lopez group's counterpart in the Visayas and Mindanao, the Aboitiz family, knows changes are coming but it isn't so sure what shape it will take.

"Definitely, for the distribution sector, the restructuring symbolizes a potential threat. We have been used to selling power to franchise areas where nobody could sell except us. The power bill will bring about changes, unknown territories to us," Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. executive vice president Erramon Aboitiz said. His company controls seven companies that generate and distribute electricity in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Aboitiz said the power reform bill should weed out weak companies and make the strong ones more efficient. He stressed, however, that there should be no exemptions.

"If we are going to implement open access, let us not exempt anybody. If generators would like to sell to a utility's franchise area, then they should pay a wheeling fee. If a private utility, on the other hand, would like to supply to an industrial customer within a rural cooperative, then it should be allowed in the same way. If an electric cooperative can offer better rates than a private utility, then it should be permitted to use the wires of the utility and pay a fee," he said.

Aboitiz said he was also concerned over the fact that the country still lacked a complete transmission backbone that could defeat the purpose of reaching to far-flung areas.

"Should we improve our transmission system first before we have open access? Right now, there are choke points. There's limited transmission we can do from island to island," he said.

(To be continued)

Energy dep't says California energy crisis unlikely in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy reiterated yesterday that the power crisis in California would not happen in the Philippines, and that the power bill was not a mere copy of the US state's deregulation model.

Proposals on the restructuring of the power industry have met strong opposition mainly on apprehensions that deregulation will only serve large companies.

The energy department said in a statement that the power bill allowed for bilateral contracts between power generation and distribution utilities up to 90 percent of demand.

"The California utilities were required to purchase all their electricity (from a market pool) while these could only charge customers on a fixed, regulated price," it said.

The energy department explained that this flawed market structure led to the utilities quickly accumulating losses in billions of dollars.

The utilities' stock prices plunged and credit ratings were "slashed to just above junk bond status."

In turn, the generating companies increasingly became reluctant to supply power to the utilities owing to their financial condition.

On the other hand, the DOE said the power bill also set a cap on bilateral contracts between related companies.

This, it said, was a safeguard against any abuse and to promote competition.

"At the same time, there is no regulated fixed selling rate to consumers," it said.

The energy department averred that such market structure would prevent the mismatch in the wholesale and retail prices that caused big losses and insolvency of utility companies.

Also, the DOE pointed out that the country enjoyed diverse power sources, including fuel oil, geothermal, coal, hydro, biomass and the anticipated natural gas from Malampaya.

Strict environmental restrictions in California led to heavy reliance on only one source, natural gas, which resulted in very little generating capacity built over the past 10 years.

That and the fast growth of demand due mainly to the boom in information technology made for a crisis formula.

California's energy demand grew sharply by 12 percent from 1999 to 2000.

Most importantly, the DOE added, the power bill had a provision that allowed the executive branch to obtain congressional approval to establish additional generating capacity in case of an imminent power shortage.

RFM says it can't redeem bonds

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp. has conceded that it would not be able to pay off redemption obligations from $65 million worth of bonds due today.

In a draft disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, RFM Corp. said it would need additional time to service the redemption payments for the convertible bonds because of "temporary cash-flow mismatch."

The bonds were issued in May 1996 in the principal amount of $65 million. These debt instruments will would mature in 2006 at an interest rate of 2.75 percent per annum.

Holders of the bonds, however, have an option to redeem their bonds today at a price equal to 128.71 percent of the principal amount.

Analysts said more bondholders would likely want to have their bonds redeemed today instead of waiting for 2006.

But RFM assured it was pursuing several options to raise funds to meet this obligation and that it would be able to make payments "within a reasonable time frame."

It said it would continue to service interest payments due on the bonds.

This meant that RFM had yet to finalize the sale of its 34-percent stake in semiconductor export subsidiary PSi Technologies Holdings Inc. for more or less $40 million, a deal that would have covered a substantial portion of its payment obligations today.

Industry sources said negotiations over the sale of the 4.725 million PSi shares left to the conglomerate were still ongoing and while a deal had not been concluded in time for the May 30 redemption obligation, a final agreement would be finalized within the next few days.

The conglomerate has tapped JP Morgan Chase & Co. as its financial advisor and the law firm Shearman & Sterling as its international counsel to assist it with the process of discussing with the bondholders and arriving at a "mutually beneficial arrangement."

RFM was planning to meet such obligations through a combination of funds from the sale of certain assets, new borrowings and from internally generated cash.

The company also said it was exploring options to take in investors or strategic partners in its other food businesses, such as flour, chicken and meat so as to help promote industry consolidation. But the company, in a separate disclosure to the PSE, yesterday denied a report that it was seeking a bridge financing deal using shares of Cosmos Bottling Corp. as collateral.

"In the meantime, while RFM pursues raising the funds necessary to meet this obligation, the company and its subsidiaries will continue normal business obligations on a timely basis. RFM also expects to continue to service current interest due on all its financial obligations including the bonds," it said.

Meanwhile, sources said JP Morgan Chase was still evaluating proposals to buy RFM's shares in PSi, which was the first Philippine company to list on the technology-heavy Nasdaq stock exchange in the United States.

PSi is a focused independent semiconductor assembly and test service provider to the power semiconductor market. RFM first invested in PSi as a minority in the late 1980s when it was still known as Pacific Semiconductors Inc. and became majority owner in 1995. Under Concepcion and a seasoned team of semicon industry veterans led by PSI president Arthur Young Jr., the company was nurtured to become one of the world's leaders in power semiconductor assembly and test services.

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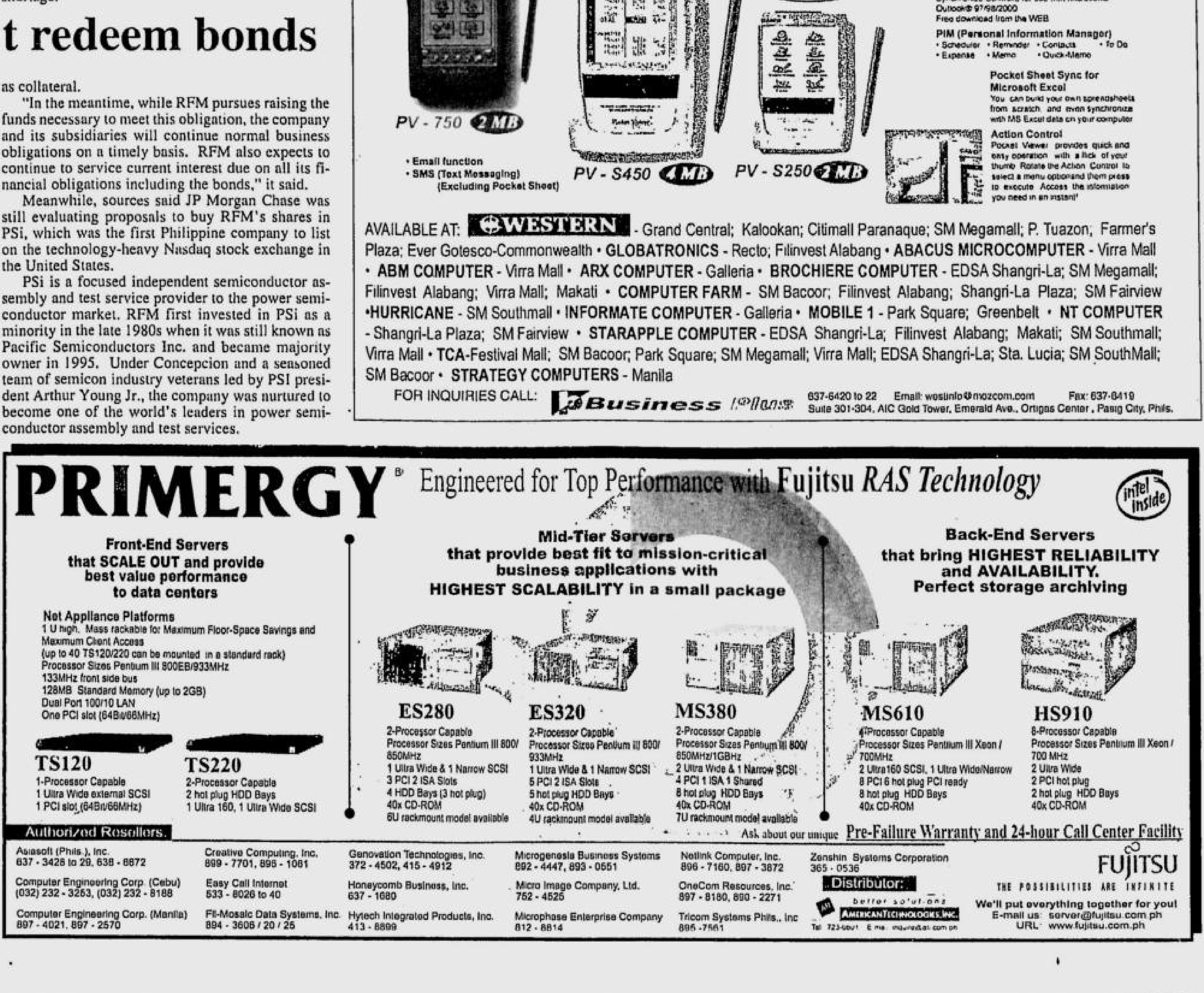

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PDIC chief, 3 gov't men named to PNB

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINE National Bank yesterday elected a new chair, Norberto Nazareno, who would replace Andres Narvasa, a former Supreme Court chief justice and an appointee of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Nazareno is also president of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

Three other new members elected to the 11-seat board are former Finance Undersecretary Flor Tarriela, Domingo Chua, and former Rizal Commercial Bank president Francisco Dizon.

They replaced Florencio Santos, Roberto Marquez and Nieves Confesor, all of whom were appointed by the Estrada administration.

Estrada was ousted following a popular revolt in January amid charges of corruption and bribery, and was replaced by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The government holds a 16-percent stake in PNB and is planning to increase its stake through a debt-to-equity swap and by purchasing the 67-percent interest of businessman Lucio Tan in the bank.

The central bank and the PDIC extended emergency assistance of P25 billion to PNB last year after its deposit base came under pressure.

PNB president Feliciano Miranda Jr. said PNB would earn over P7 billion in the next five years should the government approve its rehabilitation plan.

Miranda said the bank would be able to climb back to the black in the first year of its recovery plan. In the second quarter of the year, however, it would continue to post losses, probably as much as its P2-billion net loss in the first three months of the year.

PNB has offered to settle its P25-billion debt to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and PDIC through an asset swap arrangement and an offsetting of past due loans from various government agencies. Some P5 billion will then be restructured.

The Macapagal administration, however, has been considering converting this P5 billion into a 30-percent stake in PNB. This would dilute Tan's stake and allow the government to regain control of the bank.

In a news conference, Miranda said Tan had agreed to the planned conversion of part of the government's P25-billion loan into equity. ***With a report from Reuters***

Landbank adds ₱1B to loan allocations for agri projects

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE LAND Bank of the Philippines has increased its loan allocation for small and large-scale agricultural projects this year.

The government financial institution has increased by P1 billion to P21 billion its total loan portfolio releases allocated for small, medium and large agricultural projects this year.

Landbank external vice president Jesus Diaz said some P12 billion in credit releases has been earmarked for small farmers and fisherfolk this year and some P9 billion for large companies involved in the agricultural sector.

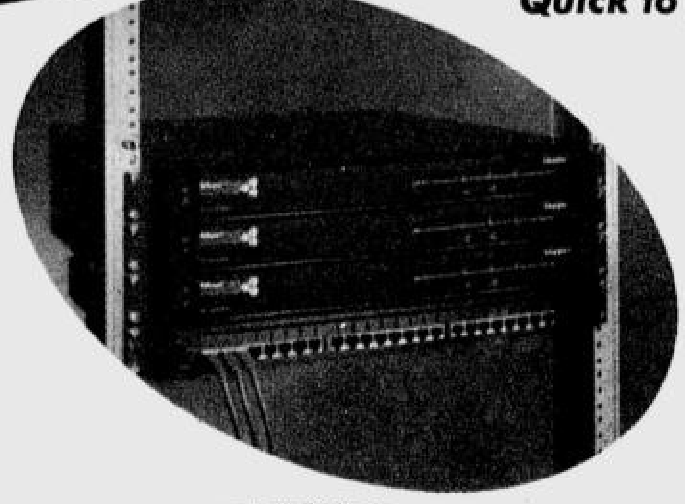
"As of the first quarter, we have already released some P574 million for a rediscounting facility for small farmers," Landbank first vice president Wilfredo Maldia said in another interview.

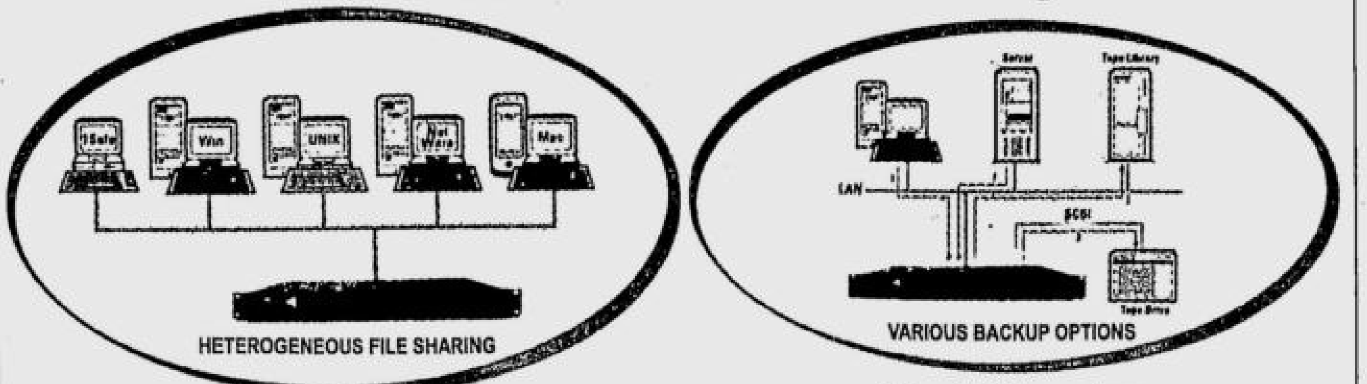
This credit facility is a combination of rediscounting credit line and loan portfolio guarantee and to be coursed through rural banks, municipal cooperatives and other lending agents such as non-government organizations and other agri-based enterprises.

"Here, Landbank stretches from 85 percent to 100 percent its rediscounting facility and lending windows for rural financial institutions such as banks to encourage them to lend to non-collateralized farmers and fishers," Maldia said.

This credit facility has a wholesale credit guarantee cover provided by the government-owned Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp., or equivalent to 85-percent guarantee, while the remaining 15 percent will be shouldered by the rural bank or any financing group.

The target areas of this project include the provinces of Pangasinan, Ilocos Norte, Isabela, Nueva Ecija, Occidental Mindoro, Leyte, Iloilo, Agusan del Sur and Zamboanga del Sur.





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Japan	Yen	0.009641	0.008297	0.4213
United Kingdom	Pound	1.652568	1.422200	72.2108
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.148981	0.128213	6.5099
Switzerland	Franc	0.654858	0.563571	28.6148
Canada	Dollar	0.752286	0.647417	32.8720
Singapore	Dollar	0.644148	0.554354	28.1468
Australia	Dollar	0.603062	0.518995	26.3515
Bahrain	Dinar	3.082339	2.652661	134.6862
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.309836	0.266645	13.5386
Brunei	Dollar	0.643757	0.554017	28.1297
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000101	0.000087	0.0044
Thailand	Baht	0.025526	0.021968	1.1154
UAE	Dirham	0.316400	0.272294	13.8255
Korea	Won	0.000902	0.000776	0.0394
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.860600	43.6961
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.440018	22.3415
France	Franc	0.152450	0.131198	6.6614
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.390523	19.8284
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.062542	3.1755
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.021334	1.0832
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000444	0.0225
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.144743	7.3492
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004293	0.2180
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005172	0.2626
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.021334	1.0832
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.092737	55.4826

FRESH FUNDS URGENTLY NEEDED

Music.com nears bankruptcy

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SUDDEN slump in the technology sector has pushed New York-based Music.com Inc. to the brink of bankruptcy, prompting parent firm Music Corp. to immediately raise fresh funds to save the bleeding music portal.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Music president and chief executive officer Michael Burton said the company's dotcom unit needed an immediate cash infusion of at least $700,000 to keep it afloat.

Music Corp. will try to raise the badly needed cash by selling new warrants to shareholders.

Burton said Music Corp. and its warrant rights holders would have to contribute $504,000 to prevent dilution, of which $371,000 would be set aside for possible warrants subscribers.

Music had to turn to its shareholders for financing after it failed to secure the $2.5-million financing needed to sustain operations from outside sources.

Music Corp. committed to raise $1.1 million while Citibank, the other major shareholder, had committed $760,000 on condition that a new investor would buy into the company.

"Despite the efforts by management, all attempts to find such an investor have been unsuccessful. The company has held discussions with any number of qualified investors, yet none was ready to make a new Internet investment. Mention Internet and most people today still tune out," Burton said.

Explaining Music.com's financial distress, company chair Philippe Bellosguardo said in a letter to shareholders: "While the Internet sector went through deep transformations, the media in general were impacted by a deep crunch of advertising budgets. Over the same period, the music industry has faced the issues of digital music distribution and has yet to show a unified front."

Music.com appealed to shareholders to infuse cash to help the company survive until such time as fresh opportunities emerge for the portal to grow its revenue lines and raise more funds through the sale of assets over the next four months.

"Since it is materially impossible to access private equity funding over such a short period, a specific form of loan is likely to be the only instrument accessible to us," Bellosguardo said.

Music.com's financial woes resulted from ill-timed investments. It acquired two French websites to pave the way for its expansion to the European market and Singapore-based Xudio.com to gain a foothold in the Asian market.

It also entered into a joint venture deal with US-based Milor Entertainment Group on a magazine publication business and entered into a strategic partnership with Catcha.com, a Southeast Asian online portal and directory.

Burton, however, admitted that the risk to investors was very high.

"Such cash infusion at this point involves significant risk and does not assure the continued operation of Music.com nor for the recovery of the investment through a sale of the company's assets at a significantly higher value than could be realized at a company liquidation," Burton said.

Music.com has already resorted to severe austerity measures in an attempt to retain operations. It let go of 70 percent of its employees and closed its Nashville and Los Angeles offices.

"This action does not, however, allow Music.com to maintain its remaining operations for more than just two to three weeks without having access to further financing," Music.com chair Philippe Bellosguardo said.

Jurong keen on Subic property

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

JURONG Town Corp. of Singapore, a state-owned developer of industrial estates in the region, is keen on taking control of the development and marketing of the remaining idle lots in the 153-hectare Subic Bay Industrial Park (SBIP).

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo said Jurong Town has offered Subic Bay Development Management Corp. (SBDMC) of Taiwan, SBIP's developer and administrator, to develop new factory space at the industrial estate.

Payumo said Jurong plans to put up boutique-type stalls for lease geared toward small and medium enterprises in Asia that are hankering for expansion overseas but lack the capital to put up their own factories.

"We can't target only the big players all the time," Payumo said.

Payumo said Jurong Town would tap its extensive marketing network in the region to attract new investors in SBIP whose development has been stalled despite a strong start.

Payumo said Jurong Town would initially target Singapore and Taiwan firms.

The major locators in phase 1, covering 105 hectares, of the SBIP are Acer, Hitachi group, Techno Electric and Machinery Co., and First Resistor Co. But aside from these investors who came in the first wave, SBIP failed to attract new investors, thus, the rest of the property became idle.

The SBIP project is expected to be Jurong Town's second major undertaking in the country after Carmelray Industrial Park in Laguna with the Yulo family as its partner. Jurong Town served as consultant of the New Cebu Township and First Clarkway Industrial Park. It had earlier floated a plan to invest $192 million, 100-hectare port and reclamation project in Camiguin.

Jurong Town has invested over $280 million in 22 industrial parks and support infrastructure in the Philippines, Singapore, China, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Meralco profit to drop by 25%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

POWER distributor Manila Electric Co. said it expected its profit to go down by 25 percent to 30 percent this year if the government would not approve its petition for a rate increase.

"With the rate increase, it will be most probably a 5- to 10-percent (drop) but that should depend on when it will come," Meralco treasurer Rafael Andrada said after the firm's stockholders' meeting yesterday.

Meralco, the country's largest power distributor, announced in March that it made a net income of P2.49 billion last year from P3.31 billion in 1999.

But even if the rate increase was granted, Andrada said the power firm's return on rate base would reach 7 percent, just below the 8 percent required by its creditors.

"In fact, we have already breached our covenant with our creditors at the time we filed the petition," Andrada said.

Meralco estimated that the RORB, a measure of the company's profitability, would further slide to between 4.2 and 4.4 percent if the government would not grant the rate adjustment.

The Lopez-controlled firm's application for a rate adjustment has been pending with the Energy Regulatory Board since April last year.

Stiff opposition from the Office of the Solicitor General and consumer groups such as the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reform prevented the government from immediately acting on the petition.

There were also questions raised with the Supreme Court on the validity of Meralco's computation of its RORB.

The last time Meralco increased its rates was February, 1994.

Andrada said Meralco's only alternative left was to cut back on capital expenditures to conserve revenues.

Meralco has reduced its capital expenditure budget to P5 billion from P8.2 billion set earlier this year.

Under its five-year capex program covering 2000 to 2004, Meralco was supposed to allocate P11.4 billion for its capex this year.

"While we can do some cutbacks, we don't want to do significant cutbacks that would jeopardize the service level that we currently have, or at least the safety level that we have imposed on our system," Andrada added. *With a report from Reuters*

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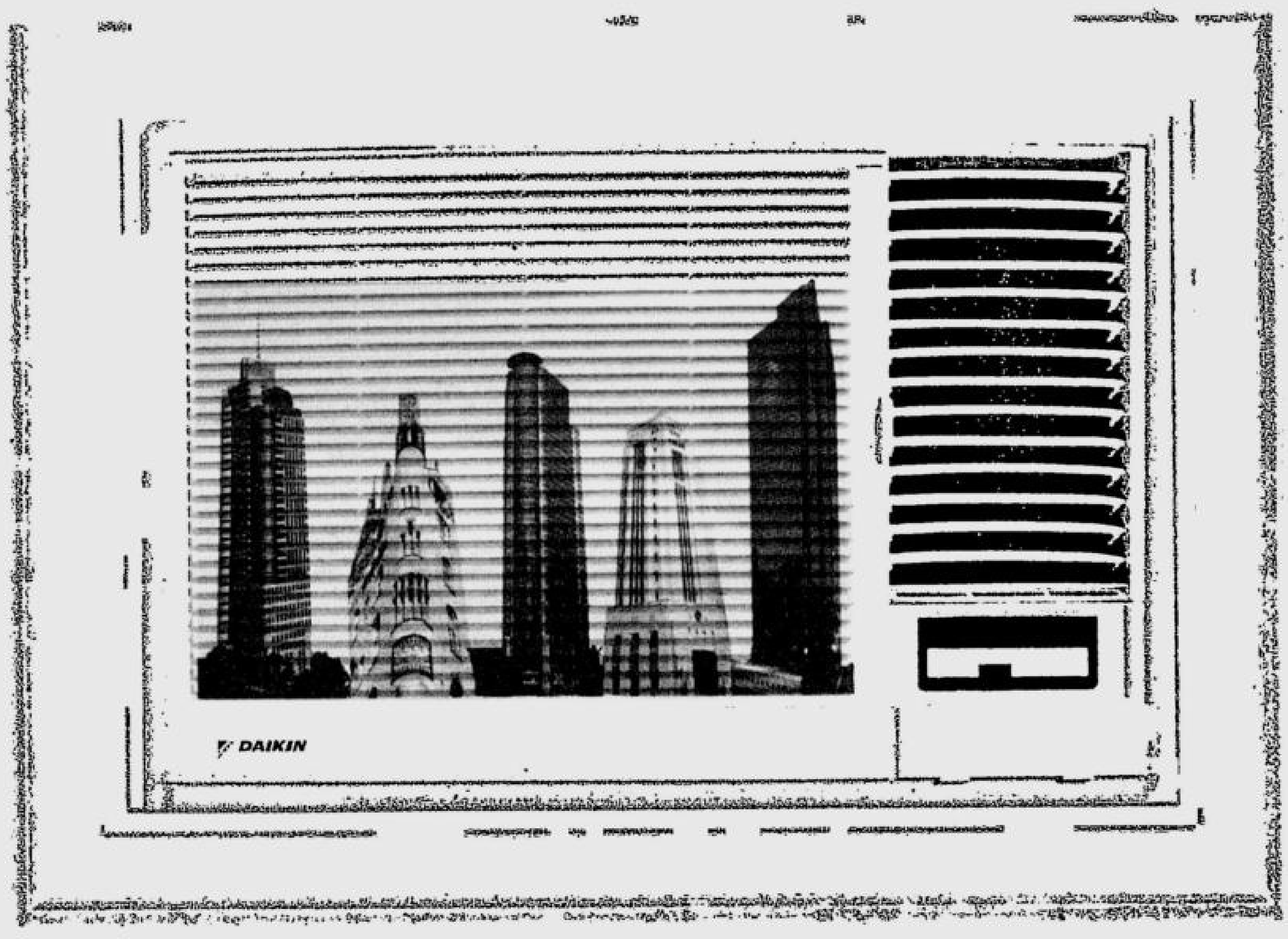

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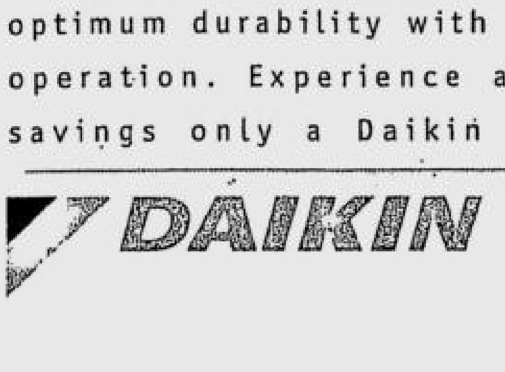

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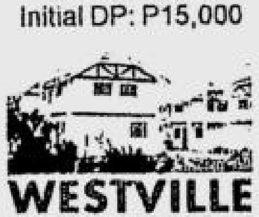

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of Spouses SIMEON CASTOR & JULIA MACAHIA is extrajudicially settled as per Doc. No. 1311; Page No. 23; Book No. VIII; Series of 2001 by Notary Publis Atty. Rustico M. Zapata, Jr of Quezon City PDI-May 16, 23 & 30 , 2001

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **MAXIMINO C. ANDAL JR.** has been extra-judicially settled by his heirs on Jan. 6, 2001 under Doc.#909; Page#192; Book#11; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Douglas Santiago PDI-May 23, 30 & June 6, 2001

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PERSONAL

Prayer to Blessed Mother
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)
O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me & show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven & Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me & being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers.Amen. (This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)
O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your Mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank You Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.) **"HL"**

THANK YOU SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

PHILIPPINES 2000
Sama-Sama sa DECS

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) through the Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) is inviting all manufacturers/suppliers of fortified instant noodles to bid for the procurement of 726,336 packs of iron fortified instant noodles for the implementation of Breakfast Feeding Program of the Department.

All interested manufacturers/suppliers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting May 30 to June 6, 2001 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., ULTRA Complex, Pasig City.

A pre-bid conference will be held on June 20, 2001, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City. The submission and opening of bids will be on June 27, 2001 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI--May 30, 31 & June 1, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

PHILIPPINES 2000
Sama-Sama sa DECS

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) through the Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) is inviting all suppliers and printers to bid for the purchase of 90,000 capsules of Vitamin A for pupils afflicted with Vitamin A deficiency and for the printing of 2,500,000 pieces of individual health cards for all pre-school and Grade I pupils in public elementary schools nationwide.

All interested suppliers and printers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining documents starting May 30 to June 6, 2001 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm 112-A, Mabini Bldg., ULTRA Complex, Pasig City.

A pre-bid conference will be held on June 21, 2001, 9:00 AM for Individual Health Cards and 10:30 AM for Vitamin A at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City. The submission and opening of bids will be on June 28, 2001 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
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(PDI--May 30, 31 & June 1, 2001)

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INVITATION TO BID

The DOTC-MRT 3 Bids and Awards Committee invites all interested bidders/suppliers to prequalify and bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

14 units of Computers Pentium 4
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Issuance of accreditation requirements can be obtained upon payment of non-refundable fee of P100.00 to the Administrative Division, DOTC-MRT 3 Depot, North Avenue cor. EDSA, North Triangle Area, Quezon City. Submission of duly accomplished and notarized pre-qualification documents shall not be later than 5:00 p.m., **June 29, 2001.**

Bid documents and complete specifications are available for issuance upon payment of P500.00, which is not refundable, and upon presentation of Notice of Invitation and Certificate of Accreditation.

The DOTC-MRT 3 reserves the right to reject any or all of the bids proposals without offering any reason, wiave any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. This office, likewise, assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids nor does it guarantee that an award shall be made.

(Sgd.) **MARIO C. MIRANDA**
Acting General Manager
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - May 30, June 2 & 4, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development II
Southern Isabela General Hospital
Rosario, Santiago City
Tel. No. (078) 682-8123

INVITATION TO BID

The Southern Isabela General Hospital (SIGH) hereby invites suppliers to a sealed bidding for Drugs and Medicines, Hospital Medical and Surgical Laboratory, X-ray, Dental, Office and Janitorial Equipment and Supplies for CY 2001.

Only responsible and duly accredited manufacturers/suppliers as certified by the DOH are qualified to participate in the Bidding. Bid documents can be secured from the SIGH PBAC Secretariat, Administrative Services Section, Southern Isabela General Hospital, Santiago City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 starting **MAY 28, 2001.**

ACTIVITY	
Submission of Pre-qualification Documents	May 28-June 7, 2001
Pre-bid Conference	June 18, 2001, 9:00 AM (Monday)
Submission and opening of Sealed Bids of Drugs & Meds., Hospital & Medical Equipment and Surgical, Lab, X-ray & Dental Supplies	June 21 starts at 9:00 AM (Thursday)
Office & Janitorial Supplies	June 22 starts at 9:00 AM (Friday)

The venue for Pre-bid conference and opening of Sealed bids will be at the Administrative Conference Room.

The SIGH reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the proposal received, or to accept such bids as may be responsive and advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ASUNCION N. ABAYA, M.D.**
Chief of Hospital I

(PDI - May 29 & 30 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MARILES RACHO-NEJAL

With last known address at # 194-B Capetown St., Pasig Greenpark, Pasig City is no longer connected with RCBC / RCBC SAVINGS BANK Credit Card Department. Any transactions entered into by her in behalf of the bank shall not be honored.

Be it also known that criminal complaints against her were filed for credit card frauds proscribed under Republic Act 8484, and / or for multiple *Estafa* using false pretenses penalized under the Revised Penal Code. Said complaints are now pending before the Office of the City Prosecutor of Pasig City docketed as I.S. Nos. 01-04-07167 to 07168.

INQUIRER TRIVIA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

'We wuz robbed!'

Q. Who originated the expression, "We wuz robbed!," the traditional utterance of losers who felt cheated in contests of all sorts?

A. It did not come from the arena of politics, as many people assume, but from boxing. The immortal, if ungrammatical expression, was coined by Joe Jacobs, manager of German heavyweight boxer Max Schmeling. Jacobs blurted out the expression in a radio interview after Schmeling lost a 15-round decision to Jack Sharkey of the US for the world title in Long Island, New York, on June 21, 1932. It was actually a rematch: Schmeling won the title in 1930 when Sharkey was disqualified in the fourth round for throwing a low blow. Schmeling thus owns the inglorious distinction of having been the first world heavyweight champion to have been crowned while writhing in pain on the canvass.

For the Record. Colored balls were used as ballots during the Middle Ages. This form has survived to modern times, particularly in clubs or associations in which voting decides the question of admitting or rejecting proposed new members. Each voter receives two balls, one white, indicating acceptance, and the other black, indicating rejection; they are then deposited secretly in appropriate receptacles so as to indicate a favorable or unfavorable decision. In some organizations, candidates for admission are rejected if any black balls are found among the white balls.

Ooops! In the 1927 presidential elections in Liberia, Charles D. B. King was reelected with an officially announced majority of 234,000 votes over his rival, Thomas J. R. Fuller. Trouble is, the African state had a total voting population at the time of less than 15,000. King had won by a "margin" more than 15½ times greater than the total electorate.

WORD WATCH

Madaya : from the Malay *daya*, meaning "a sly or artful trick."

PDI – May 30, 2001

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Our Dearly Beloved

ATTY. GEMILIANO NAVOS MALOLES

Peacefully joined his Creator
on 27th of May 2001 at the age of 80.

His bereaved wife **Emen**; children **Jimmy**, **Minerva** and **Sumeth**, **Pitz** and **Divine**, **Hubert** and **Joanna**; and grandchildren **Deiniel, JR, Noelle, Abigail, Jody, Justin** and **Biencarlo**; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence at No. 63 Judge E. Maloles St., Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

Holy Mass will be celebrated on June 2, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow at the Sto. Tomas Cemetery.

OSCAR SALVADOR CHACON, JR., M.D.

March 10, 1950 – May 26, 2001

His loving wife **Baybee**; children, **Oscar III**, **Eric** and **Ian**; mother-in-law **Soledad Navaleza**; sister, brothers and in-laws **Dada & Max Elgar**, **Bobet** and **Fely**, **Albert** and **Leny**, **Ronnie** and **Oyie**; nephews and nieces, grandnephew and other relatives would like to request you to remember him in your prayers.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, New Manila, Quezon City, on Friday, June 1, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. Cremation follows.

Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28

BENITO VENUS CONLU

of Ibajay, Aklan

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 28, 2001 at the age of 77.

His bereaved wife **Ligaya**, sisters **Adela** (†), **Encarnacion** (†), **Rafaelita** (†), **Prudencia**, brother **Manuel**, children and their spouses, **Cynthia & Rico Santos**, **Coket** and **Cora Labindao**, **Rhia** and **Edwin Estrada**, **Raquel** and **Mario Royena**, grandchildren and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose and happiness of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Holy Child Chapel, Mortuary, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

Interment will be on June 3, 2001 at 2PM, Sunday at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

In Loving Memory of

Petronila A. Rico

(Formerly of Aliw St.,
Mandaluyong City)

Who joined our Creator
on May 14, 2001.

The family would like to extend our deepest thanks to those who offered their condolences and prayers, and sent flowers.

Please accept this as our personal thanks.

FR. ANTONIO M. CUNA, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Tuesday, 29 May 2001.

Wake: Chapel of the Immaculate Conception,
Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro City
Concelebrated Mass every evening at 8:00 P.M.

Funeral Mass: at 9 A.M. on Friday, 1st of June
in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception.

Interment: Manresa Jesuit Cemetery, Cagayan de Oro City
immediately after the Funeral Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Cor. 5:8

✝

Maria Luisa Mendez vda. de Camus

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
at the age of 88 on May 28, 2001.

Her bereaved children CARLOS, LUIS, MARIA LUISA, ROSARIO & PEDRO, children-in-law, sister Paz M. de Claramunt, grandchildren, great grandchildren, cousins, nephews, nieces and other relatives remember her with love and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

The cremation took place on the same day. Her ashes rest at the Mortuary of the Santuario del Santo Cristo, 183 F. Blumentritt, San Juan, Metro Manila, where a Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, May 31, 2001, at 10:00 a.m. Interment follows immediately at the cemetery of the same church.

Please omit flowers. A donation to your favorite charity will be appreciated.

Remedios Adriano Vda. de Del Rosario

Died on April 21, 2001 (U.S. Time)
Interned at Madonna Mausoleum at Fort Lee,
New Jersey, U.S.A.

40th Day, Memorial Masses will be offered on *31 May 2001*:

6:00 AM	**Nstra. Sra. Del Perpetua Socorro,** *Calamba St., Manila*
6:00 AM	**San Bartolome**, *Malabon City*
6:15 AM	**St. Alphonsus Mary De Leguori,**
7:00 AM	*Magallanes, Makati City*
6:00 PM	**Immaculate Conception**, *Malabon City*
6:00 PM	**Our Lady of Lourdes**, *Kanlaon, Quezon City*
6:00 PM	**St. Gabriel**, *Caloocan City*

1 June 2001

6:00 AM	**Santiago Apostol**, *Plaridel, Bulacan*

Please say a prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Message of Thanks
The family of the late

Col. Pedro J. Bartolome AFP (Ret.)

would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to those who sympathized with them during their time of bereavement, and their sincere appreciation for the generous gift of love contributions to the Haven of Peace Foundation, Inc.
Once again, thank you for your support and in sharing in the family's grief.

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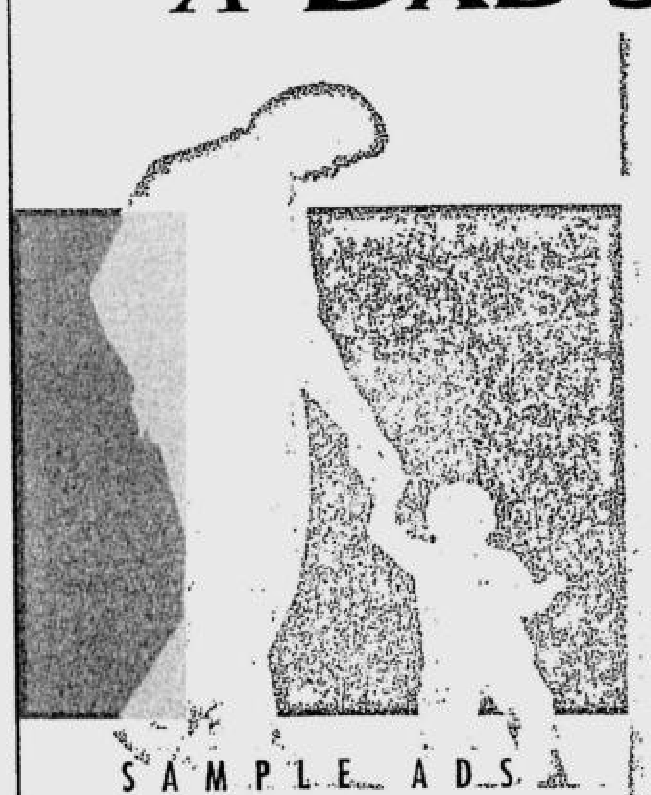

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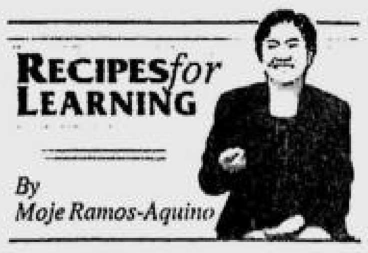
Get unstuck the Japanese way


RECIPES*for* LEARNING

By Moje Ramos-Aquino

HAVE you tried to unlearn, to undo, and to get unstuck?

Let us borrow from the Japanese and apply 5S to your Workshop on Using Time Wisely to Realize Your Dreams and Enjoy the Dreaming. Let us explore how you can use 5S to unlearn, undo and get unstuck.

Recall that the 5S philosophy focuses on effective workplace organization and standardized work procedures. This philosophy simplifies your work environment, reduces waste and non-value activity while improving quality, efficiency and safety. Let's apply it to your whole life, not just to your work life, so you can save precious time.

Sort

The first S is sort or "seiri." This focuses on eliminating unnecessary items and material things among your personal belongings, your house or workstation, your bag or wallet, your tools and machines, etc. List them down and mark each item as often used, moderately used, occasionally used, seldom used and never used.

All those items you marked moderately used, occasionally used, seldom used and never used need further sorting. Likewise, do a visual inspection of your material possessions, tools, equipment, facilities and others to identify unneeded items and red tag them. Mark the items themselves with bright red ink. Place a red tag or mark on all items not required to complete your job, enhance your family life, improve your relations, make you a better person, relate with God joyfully, and help your fellows unconditionally.

Unnecessary items

In your workstation, do you really need 10 pictures of your family in different poses to be inspired? Do you need to have all those knick-knacks and bric-a-bracs to prettify your area and make you feel at home? Do you really need 10 ballpens, five telephone sets, a big table, one wastebasket per person, etc, to do your work? How could those dusty artificial plants and hundreds of 40-watt fluorescent lamps make your workstation a better place to work in?

At home, look around your whole house—living room, bedrooms, kitchen, dining room and other areas. How many of your material possessions do you use often, occasionally, once or never? Do you truly need so many rooms that are so big? Will those expensive plates from the sunken Titanic or those lifesized images of saints make you more cultured or spiritual or do they properly belong in a museum or a church for many more people to appreciate? Do you need to stock up on grocery items when there is a store or mall within walking distance? How many tables and chairs do you need as a family and for personal use? How many TV sets, plates, glasses, etc? These items are getting better and cheaper everyday so why hoard?

More unneeded items

Do you need to have 100 items of clothing, 50 pairs of footwear, 30 bags and suitcases, 20 bottles of perfume, 10 different shaving creams, etc. I know somebody who has one *balikbayan* box of hair ornaments and she is 50 years old! She must spend about an hour every morning just deciding which ribbon or barrette to use and another hour in the evening if she decides to go out for the night.

Do you buy and use products in aerosol cans? Aren't they harmful to the environment? Do you eat at fastfood restaurants or buy products that use non-biodegradable packaging like styrofoam and plastic? Hmm, shouldn't these companies be taxed the equivalent amount for the disposal of their waste products? Do you realize that you and your taxes are paying for the disposal of those millions of styrofoam boxes used by your favorite hamburger chain?

In your wallet or bag, do you need all those money, credit cards, receipts, calendar, pictures, used bus tickets, cosmetics, etc? Does having 20 novena booklets and five rosaries make you a more spiritual person? Is that a packet of condom I see your wallet?

When you finish this exercise, you will find your Circular File (wastebasket) overflowing with lots of items that represent time, wasted or unused. Decide which things you do not need to live your multiple lives (career/business, personal, family, relational, community, spiritual) and remove them. Put your "just-in-case" mentality right smack into the waste can and forget about hoarding and stocking up on unnecessary items.

Clutter will pull you in so many directions. Sorting is a significant step to free up valuable time and space in your life and to eliminate your unnecessary activities, relations, thoughts, behaviors, and material things.

The second S is straighten or "seiton." This focuses on efficient and effective storage methods and helps you decide which items you need to accomplish your mission, goals, objectives and action plans using your values and competencies along the path of your vision. It will be very hard for you to straighten your life if you do not know where you are going and therefore, what are important in your life.

Articulate vision

If you haven't yet done it, you better now articulate your personal vision, mission, values and goals. Otherwise, you can never determine what to keep and what to throw away in terms of material things or what activities to do or not do or who are the significant people in your life.

After determining material things that you need to live your life, the next step is to ascertain how many or how much of these items can and should you use? There will never be enough of anything in this world. We have systematically depleted and degraded our scarce natural resources and even destroyed the protective covering of Planet Earth to satisfy our material needs.

Finally, organize them. Determine where to put each item. Heed the conventional wisdom that there is a place for everything and everything should be in its proper place. To maximize time, the items that you use often should be within easy reach and easily accessible before you even finish saying "the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog near the bank of the river." How much time do you waste everyday looking for your bunch of keys?

Sweep

The third S is sweep or "seiso." Now that you have removed the material clutter and junk in your life and organized the things that you need, the next step is to clean up your home and office or other areas where you spend a lot of your time. You need to do this on a regular basis for maintenance and improvement. When you find something that needs repair or improvement, have it done pronto. A stitch in time saves nine, even 10 or 20. Also, don't wait for the janitor to wipe your table; do it. It is your table.

Recycle everything that you can recycle with due consideration to health, hygiene and ethics. Aesthetics is not a good criterion because it is a very subjective matter.

Isn't it bliss to be living and working in a simple, uncluttered environment? Easier to clean, too. And needs only low maintenance.

The fourth S is standardize or "seiketsu" so that you don't have to reinvent the wheel everytime. Grow your best practices. Learn from your mistakes. Make everybody toe the line. You can't go on with the first three Ss with Junior running around and leaving things awry or your fellow workers unmindful of their own clutter. Get stuck on new habits until proven otherwise.

Sustain or Self-discipline or "shitsuke" is the last S and the most difficult to implement. To this day, I can't get rid of the Batman cape of my sons (when they were 2 and 4 years old) because of some sentimental reason. At least, I've already given away their first pair of shoes and their baptismal gowns. Hahahaha.

Good housekeeping

By nature, we are also creatures of comfort and status quo and, therefore, we tend to go back to our old ways and cling to old things. But we have to do it or else, no matter how big our house or workstation is, there will never be enough space for everything. And the rats and cockroaches will be the happiest.

Undo. Unlearn. Get unstuck. The Japanese calls it 5S. The Americans refer to it as good housekeeping. Whatever, the whole process will surely give you less waste, better quality and free time to use for your better productivity at work, well-being and leisure, spiritual endeavors, family togetherness, stronger relationships and commitment to social responsibility.

Now do the same for your activities and behaviors. *Madugo ito* but you can do it. Undo. Unlearn. Get unstuck.

(E-mail feedback to: moje.ramos@aquino.ZZN.com.*)*

Women are transformative leaders

BY MOJE RAMOS-AQUINO

ALL over the world, women in all kinds of human endeavors are growing in numbers, achievement and recognition. Do you notice that recent protest marches and rallies are led and manned mostly by working women? And now, the Philippines is once again led by a woman president. A text message goes "Cory replaced Marcos, Gloria replaced Erap. Women clean up after the mess men make. Aren't we glad we are women?"

Women are proving their strength and capability in taking on leadership roles. As leaders, they have delineated their own alternative, female model of leadership that Ms Myrna Tang-Yao described in her keynote speech at the Asian Women Leadership Conference held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia recently.

YAO

Feminine qualities

Ms Yao said that women leaders are moving from a "command, compete and control style of leadership to a self-managed team approach highlighting humanity, intimacy, interdependence, connectedness, collaboration, cooperation, caring and diversity" which are qualities that are decidedly feminine.

Ms Yao is commissioner, National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women; treasurer, Asean Confederation of Women's Organization; president, National Women's Council of the Philippines; and president, Filipino-Chinese Federation of Business and Professional Women of the Philippines. She is married to businessman Alberto Yao and has four daughters ages 14, 24, 25 and 26. She is also chief operating officer of Richwell Trading Corporation, distributor of Barbie dolls, V-Tec, Fisher-Price and Pigeon baby products. She was a leading delegate to the UN Women Conference in Beijing, China.

Ms Yao further expounded that "Women leaders speak in a different voice. Instead of engaging in confrontation, they are more apt to negotiate. Instead of dealing in win-lose terms, they tend to see the gray area in between. Instead of thinking only of today, they think in terms of the needs of the generations to come. They inspire their followers to excel by creating an atmosphere that makes them feel good about themselves and the work that they do— a reflection of the traditional mother's role in creating a happy home. They utilize their unique negotiation skills and perspectives in conflict resolution. They embody the feminine traits of mothering, nurturing and healing as spiritual dimensions of sustainable development." This leadership style guides women to become successful leaders in all sectors of society and encourages them to work toward women's empowerment and gender equality.

Attributes

Ms Yao argued that transformative leadership promotes attributes such as empowerment, cooperation, consultation and consensus building. She added that "transformative leadership is distinguished from the other 'male' models of leadership that is concerned with power, domination, competition and being on top. This brand of leadership also follows a different set of processes and behaviors that are participatory, egalitarian, responsive, transparent, accountable, non-corrupt, consensus-oriented and empowering."

To practice transformative leadership, Ms Yao advocated that women should have a "competent self," meaning that she knows who she is at all times. She does not have to be defined by people, situations or events. She doesn't believe that "she has to change the way she acts to please the people around her. "A competent self enables her to take risks without feeling threatened and to see possibilities, instead of obstacles."

Misconception

Finally, Ms Yao pointed out that there is a misconception that women and aggression do not go together. She observed that nobody likes an aggressive woman. If ever there is one, she is portrayed as "the jealous lover, the destructive bitch, even the angry feminist." Women's aggression in today's society is still considered as unacceptable, unfeminine and dangerous.

Ms Yao advocated instead "creative aggression," which has the following qualities—having an ambition and pursuing it, taking initiatives, making efforts, possessing the capacity for serious work, carrying through to completion, attaining success, insisting upon one's rights, defending oneself when attacked, forming and expressing autonomous views, recognizing one's goals and being able to plan one's life according to them.

There can be no loyal workers without loyal leaders

DO you realize that at the rate working people change employers these days, you are training your competitors' employees? Have you considered that you are actually teaching the very persons who may ease you out of the market someday?

The thought of teaching someone else's workers seems impossible. But if you think of how your own skilled employees can be lured by your competitors' promise of higher compensation and that they can bring your best-kept secrets with them, it's not such a far-fetched idea.

Top executives of big corporations, who attended the recent Ancilla CEO Breakfast Forum at the New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati, acknowledged that developing employee loyalty is one of the challenges leaders face in this highly competitive age.

Great Plains Asia's Managing Director Joey Gurango, one of the speakers in the forum, cited the example of North America, which experienced a massive exodus of IT-skilled personnel in the last six months. Job openings remained open for half a year, causing industry leaders in information technology to lobby the US government to increase its quota of IT-skilled immigrants to 100,000.

Gurango also disclosed that principals in the 40 partner companies he handles within the region also have the same problems: lack of skilled IT manpower and the eventual departure of the more skilled ones.

"Our industry is notorious for IT personnel who switch jobs and change allegiances at the drop of a hat," Mr. Gurango stated. "It is becoming increasingly rare to find a talented IT professional working at their present company for more than five years. The average tenure in our industry is about two years."

He added that lack of loyalty is very common nowadays, not just in business but also in politics, religion, sports, families and even cellular phone models. So, what can a company leader do to encourage genuine loyalty among his employees?

"Team leaders must trust their team members implicitly," Gurango advised. He also admitted that this might be quite hard to do because the prevailing business culture dictates that people have to earn other people's trust. Top managers are also very careful not to take a risk fatal to business so they don't trust easily. He said that a leader "should give trust until a team member behaves in a way that results in a loss of that trust." He cited as example his company, Great Plains, a business management software company, where employees are given relative freedom to do their responsibilities according to the system that will work best for them.

"Effective leaders in knowledge industries must learn to play the roles of coach, mentor and motivator," Gurango said. He said studies showed that as people become more skilled and talented, they yearn to improve their skills more. Companies must have the program to enable further development among its employees. "Leaders need to take a more holistic approach in this area by paying attention not only to job-related, technical skills but also to the so-called soft skills," Gurango added, pertaining to skills outside of work.

He pointed out that leaders must recognize their employees' specific contributions to the overall success of the company and must be ready to reward them for remarkable performance at work. Gestures of appreciation may be simple but sincere like a personal thank you note, a literal pat on the back, or words of praise said in public. But, Gurango emphasized that if an employee's contribution is so significant that it has resulted in dramatic revenue and profit increases or the job satisfaction of other employees, there must be an equitable and tangible reward given.

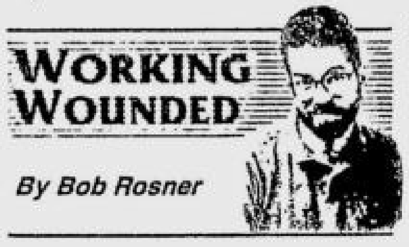
Gurango observed that competitors' recruitment policies are too irresistible for knowledge workers to turn down. The world's most envied firm can have the industry's best men, but if the competitor offers them a handsome package, then those employees may leave the company. However, Gurango said that the money comes second. "People are most likely to become loyal to leaders that demonstrate loyalty towards them."

Mr. Gurango noted that despite the legacy of IT, which enables workers to do more work in less time, employees are still putting more time and soul into work than into their personal lives. "Their productivity has increased but their quality of life has actually suffered," he stated. This is because workers are really loyal to their job if they believe in and feel strongly about it.

GURANGCO

Gurango concluded that in the end, employees–especially the longer-staying ones and those who are doing exactly what they enjoy–develop a more defined purpose in continuing their work with their present employers. Money, though an important factor, becomes just one of many motivators at work. He said, "Talented people need a workplace to be a stimulating social environment, where they can be engaged in something commercially viable, without being totally disengaged from what makes them human: their family, their friends and their relationships with these loved ones."

How do you get on the same wavelength as your boss?


WORKING WOUNDED

By Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: My boss is always asking me to do things I disagree with. They're not unethical—just dumb. It's driving me crazy. Short of quitting, is there anything I can do?

Dumb And Dumber

It was Paul who taught me the importance of being a boss watcher. It happened during high school English class when he decided to glue eyes from a Visine ad inside his glasses so that he could catch a few winks without the teacher knowing. (He chose the "before" shots for their realism.) It worked too-until Miss Edmonds called on him. Then, groggy and disoriented, he looked frantically around the room trying to locate her by the sound of her voice. The class cracked up; Paul ended up in the principal's office. He did manage to catch up on his sleep, though—during his week of detention.

From that day forward, Paul never took his eyes off Miss Edmonds. And you should be no less diligent when it comes to hawking your boss, because the better you can read and understand her, the better your relationship will be. Gifford Pinchot, author of "The Rise of the Intelligent Organization" (Berrett-Kohler, 1997) suggests asking the following questions. They'll help you and your boss see eye-to eye.

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(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com)

Get unstuck the Japanese way

RECIPES for LEARNING

By Moje Ramos-Aquino

HAVE you tried to unlearn, to undo, and to get unstuck?

Let us borrow from the Japanese and apply 5S to your Workshop on Using Time Wisely to Realize Your Dreams and Enjoy the Dreaming. Let us explore how you can use 5S to unlearn, undo and get unstuck.

Recall that the 5S philosophy focuses on effective workplace organization and standardized work procedures. This philosophy simplifies your work environment, reduces waste and non-value activity while improving quality, efficiency and safety. Let's apply it to your whole life, not just to your work life, so you can save precious time.

Sort

The first S is sort or "seiri." This focuses on eliminating unnecessary items and material things among your personal belongings, your house or workstation, your bag or wallet, your tools and machines, etc. List them down and mark each item as often used, moderately used, occasionally used, seldom used and never used.

All those items you marked moderately used, occasionally used, seldom used and never used need further sorting. Likewise, do a visual inspection of your material possessions, tools, equipment, facilities and others to identify unneeded items and red tag them. Mark the items themselves with bright red ink. Place a red tag or mark on all items not required to complete your job, enhance your family life, improve your relations, make you a better person, relate with God joyfully, and help your fellows unconditionally.

Unnecessary items

In your workstation, do you really need 10 pictures of your family in different poses to be inspired? Do you need to have all those knick-knacks and bric-a-bracs to prettify your area and make you feel at home? Do you really need 10 ballpens, five telephone sets, a big table, one wastebasket per person, etc, to do your work? How could those dusty artificial plants and hundreds of 40-watt fluorescent lamps make your workstation a better place to work in?

At home, look around your whole house—living room, bedrooms, kitchen, dining room and other areas. How many of your material possessions do you use often, occasionally, once or never? Do you truly need so many rooms that are so big? Will those expensive plates from the sunken Titanic or those lifesized images of saints make you more cultured or spiritual or do they properly belong in a museum or a church for many more people to appreciate? Do you need to stock up on grocery items when there is a store or mall within walking distance? How many tables and chairs do you need as a family and for personal use? How many TV sets, plates, glasses, etc? These items are getting better and cheaper everyday so why hoard?

More unneeded items

Do you need to have 100 items of clothing, 50 pairs of footwear, 30 bags and suitcases, 20 bottles of perfume, 10 different shaving creams, etc. I know somebody who has one *balikbayan* box of hair ornaments and she is 50 years old! She must spend about an hour every morning just deciding which ribbon or barrette to use and another hour in the evening if she decides to go out for the night.

Do you buy and use products in aerosol cans? Aren't they harmful to the environment? Do you eat at fastfood restaurants or buy products that use non-biodegradable packaging like styrofoam and plastic? Hmm, shouldn't these companies be taxed the equivalent amount for the disposal of their waste products? Do you realize that you and your taxes are paying for the disposal of those millions of styrofoam boxes used by your favorite hamburger chain?

In your wallet or bag, do you need all those money, credit cards, receipts, calendar, pictures, used bus tickets, cosmetics, etc? Does having 20 novena booklets and five rosaries make you a more spiritual person? Is that a packet of condom I see your wallet?

When you finish this exercise, you will find your Circular File (wastebasket) overflowing with lots of items that represent time, wasted or unused. Decide which things you do not need to live your multiple lives (career/business, personal, family, relational, community, spiritual) and remove them. Put your "just-in-case" mentality right smack into the waste can and forget about hoarding and stocking up on unnecessary items.

Clutter will pull you in so many directions. Sorting is a significant step to free up valuable time and space in your life and to eliminate your unnecessary activities, relations, thoughts, behaviors, and material things.

The second S is straighten or "seiton." This focuses on efficient and effective storage methods and helps you decide which items you need to accomplish your mission, goals, objectives and action plans using your values and competencies along the path of your vision. It will be very hard for you to straighten your life if you do not know where you are going and therefore, what are important in your life.

Articulate vision

If you haven't yet done it, you better now articulate your personal vision, mission, values and goals. Otherwise, you can never determine what to keep and what to throw away in terms of material things or what activities to do or not do or who are the significant people in your life.

After determining material things that you need to live your life, the next step is to ascertain how many or how much of these items can and should you use? There will never be enough of anything in this world. We have systematically depleted and degraded our scarce natural resources and even destroyed the protective covering of Planet Earth to satisfy our material needs.

Finally, organize them. Determine where to put each item. Heed the conventional wisdom that there is a place for everything and everything should be in its proper place. To maximize time, the items that you use often should be within easy reach and easily accessible before you even finish saying "the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog near the bank of the river." How much time do you waste everyday looking for your bunch of ke[illegible]

Sweep

The third S is [illegible]weep [illegible]se[illegible] Now that you have removed the material clutter and junk in your life and organized the things that you need, the next step [illegible] to clean up your home and office [illegible]r other areas wher[illegible] [illegible] spend [illegible] time. Yo[illegible] need to do this on a [illegible]egular [illegible] for maintenance and improve[illegible] When yo[illegible] find somethin[illegible] needs repai[illegible] improvemen[illegible] done promptly. A stitch [illegible] tim[illegible] nine, even 10 or 20. Als[illegible] don't wa[illegible] for the janitor to wipe [illegible] [illegible]ble. Re[illegible] [illegible]verythin[illegible] that [illegible]

recycle with due consideration to health, hygiene and ethics. Aesthetics is not a good criterion because it is a very subjective matter.

Isn't it bliss to be living and working in a simple, uncluttered environment? Easier to clean, too. And needs only low maintenance.

The fourth S is standardize or "seiketsu" so that you don't have to reinvent the wheel everytime. Grow your best practices. Learn from your mistakes. Make everybody toe the line. You can't go on with the first three Ss with Junior running around and leaving things awry or your fellow workers unmindful of their own clutter. Get stuck on new habits until proven otherwise.

Sustain or Self-discipline or "shitsuke" is the last S and the most difficult to implement. To this day, I can't get rid of the Batman cape of my sons (when they were 2 and 4 years old) because of some sentimental reason. At least, I've already given away their first pair of shoes and their baptismal gowns. Hahahaha.

Good housekeeping

By nature, we are also creatures of comfort and status quo and, therefore, we tend to go back to our old ways and cling to old things. But we have to do it or else, no matter h[illegible] big our house or workstation [illegible] there will never be enough space for everything. And the rats and cockroaches will be the happiest.

[illegible] Get unstuck. [illegible]he Japa[illegible] it 5S. The [illegible] as good hou[illegible]ekee[illegible] Whatever the [illegible] give you [illegible] quality and free [illegible] better produc[illegible] and lei[illegible] family [illegible] lation[illegible] [illegible]cial re[illegible] [illegible] tor your ac[illegible] *Madueo ito* [illegible] Unlearn. [illegible] [illegible]ZZN.com.

Women are transformative leaders

BY MOJE RAMOS-AQUINO

ALL over the world, women in all kinds of human endeavors are growing in numbers, achievement and recognition. Do you notice that recent protest marches and rallies are led and manned mostly by working women? And now, the Philippines is once again led by a woman president. A text message goes "Cory replaced Marcos, Gloria replaced Erap. Women clean up after the mess men make. Aren't we glad we are women?"

Women are proving their strength and capability in taking on leadership roles. As leaders, they have delineated their own alternative, female model of leadership that Ms Myrna Tang-Yao described in her keynote speech at the Asian Women Leadership Conference held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia recently.

YAO

Feminine qualities

Ms Yao said that women leaders are moving from a "command, compete and control style of leadership to a self-managed team approach highlighting humanity, intimacy, interdependence, connectedness, collaboration, cooperation, caring and diversity" which are qualities that are decidedly feminine.

Ms Yao is commissioner, National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women; treasurer, Asean Confederation of Women's Organization; president, National Women's Council of the Philippines; and president, Filipino-Chinese Federation of Business and Professional Women of the Philippines. She is married to businessman Alberto Yao and has four daughters ages 14, 24, 25 and 26. She is also chief operating officer of Richwell Trading Corporation, distributor of Barbie dolls, V-Tec, Fisher-Price and Pigeon baby products. She was a leading delegate to the UN Women Conference in Beijing, China.

Ms Yao further expounded that "Women leaders speak in a different voice. Instead of engaging in confrontation, they are more apt to negotiate. Instead of dealing in win-lose terms, they tend to see the gray area in between. Instead of thinking only of today, they think in terms of the needs of the generations to come. They inspire their followers to excel by creating an atmosphere that makes them feel good about themselves and the work that they do— a reflection of the traditional mother's role in creating a happy home. They utilize their unique negotiation skills and perspectives in conflict resolution. They embody the feminine traits of mothering, nurturing and healing as spiritual dimensions of sustainable development." This leadership style guides women to become successful leaders in all sectors of society and encourages them to work toward women's empowerment and gender equality.

Attributes

Ms Yao argued that transformative leadership promotes attributes such as empowerment, cooperation, consultation and consensus building. She added that "transformative leadership is distinguished from the other 'male' models of leadership that is concerned with power, domination, competition and being on top. This brand of leadership also follows a different set of processes and behaviors that are participatory, egalitarian, responsive, transparent, accountable, non-corrupt, consensus-oriented and empowering."

To practice transformative leadership, Ms Yao advocated that women should have a "competent self," meaning that she knows who she is at all times. She does not have to be defined by people, situations or events. She doesn't believe that "she has to change the way she acts to please the people around her. "A competent self enables her to take risks without feeling threatened and to see possibilities, instead of obstacles."

Misconception

Finally, Ms Yao pointe[illegible] that there is a misconcept[illegible] women and aggression d[illegible] together. She observed that [illegible] body likes an aggressive woman. If ever there is one, she is portrayed as "the jealous lover, the destructive bitch, even the angry feminist." Women's aggression in today's society is still considered as unacceptable, unfeminine and dangerous.

Ms Yao advocated instead "creative aggression," which has the following qualities—having an ambition and pursuing it, taking initiatives, making efforts, possessing the capacity for serious work, carrying through to completion, attaining success, insisting upon one's rights, defending oneself when attacked, forming and expressing autonomous views, recognizing one' goals and being able to plan one' life according to them.

How do you get on the same wavelength as your boss?

WORKING WOUNDED

By Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: My boss is always asking me to do things I disagree with. They're not unethical—just dumb. It's driving me crazy. Short of quitting, is there anything I can do?

Dumb And Dumber

It was Paul who taught me the importance of being a boss watcher. It happened during high school English class when he decided to glue eyes from a Visine ad inside his glasses so that he could catch a few winks without the teacher knowing. (He chose the "before" shots for their realism.) It worked too-until Miss Edmonds called on him. Then, groggy and disoriented, he looked frantically around the room trying to locate her by the sound of her voice. The class cracked up; Paul ended up in the principal's office. He did manage to catch up on his sleep, though—during his week of detention.

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(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com)

There can be no loyal workers without loyal leaders

DO you realize that at the rate working people change employers these days, you are training your competitors' employees? Have you considered that you are actually teaching the very persons who may ease you out of the market someday?

The thought of teaching someone else's workers seems impossible. But if you think of how your own skilled employees can be lured by your competitors' promise of higher compensation and that they can bring your best-kept secrets with them, it's not such a far-fetched idea.

Top executives of big corporations, who attended the recent Ancilla CEO Breakfast Forum at the New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati, acknowledged that developing employee loyalty is one of the challenges leaders face in this highly competitive age.

Great Plains Asia's Managing Director Joey Gurango, one of the speakers in the forum, cited the example of North America, which experienced a massive exodus of IT-skilled personnel in the last six months. Job openings remained open for half a year, causing industry leaders in information technology to lobby the US government to increase its quota of IT-skilled immigrants to 100,000.

Gurango also disclosed that principals in the 40 partner companies he handles within the region also have the same problems: lack of skilled IT manpower and the eventual departure of the more skilled ones.

"Our industry is notorious for IT personnel who switch jobs and change allegiances at the drop of a hat," Mr. Gurango stated. "It is becoming increasingly rare to find a talented IT professional working at their present company for more than five years. The average tenure in our industry is about two years."

He added that lack of loyalty is very common nowadays, not just in business but also in politics, religion, sports, families and even cellular phone models. So, what can a company leader do to encourage genuine loyalty among his employees?

"Team leaders must trust their team members implicitly," Gurango advised. He also admitted that this might be quite hard to do because the prevailing business culture dictates that people have to earn other people's trust. Top managers are also very careful not to take a risk fatal to business so they don't trust easily. He said that a leader "should give trust until a team member behaves in a way that results in a loss of that trust." He cited as example his company, Great Plains, a business management software company, where employees are given relative freedom to do their responsibilities according to the system that will work best for them.

"Effective leaders in knowledge industries must learn to play the roles of coach, mentor and motivator," Gurango said. He said studies showed that as people become more skilled and talented, they yearn to improve their skills more. Companies must have the program to enable further development among its employees. "Leaders need to take a more holistic approach in this area by paying attention not only to job-related, technical skills but also to the so-called soft skills," Gurango added, pertaining to skills outside of work.

He pointed out that leaders must recognize their employees' specific contributions to the overall success of the company and must be ready to reward them for remarkable performance at work. Gestures of appreciation may be simple but sincere like a personal thank you note, a literal pat on the back, or words of praise said in public. But, Gurango emphasized that if an employee's contribution is so significant that it has resulted in dramatic revenue and profit increases or the job satisfaction of other employees, there must be an equitable and tangible reward given.

Gurango observed that competitors' recruitment policies are too irresistible for knowledge workers to turn down. The world's most envied firm can have the industry's best men, but if the competitor offers them a handsome package, then those employees may leave the company. However, Gurango said that the money comes second. "People are most likely to become loyal to leaders that demonstrate loyalty towards them."

Mr. Gurango noted that despite the legacy of IT, which enables workers to do more work in less time, employees are still putting more time and soul into work than into their personal lives. "Their productivity has increased but their quality of life has actually suffered," he stated. This is because workers are really loyal to their job if they believe in and feel strongly about it.

GURANGCO

Gurango concluded that in the end, employees–especially the longer-staying ones and those who are doing exactly what they enjoy-develop a more defined purpose in continuing their work with their present employers. Money, though an important factor, becomes just one of many motivators at work. He said, "Talented people need a workplace to be a stimulating social environment, where they can be engaged in something commercially viable, without being totally disengaged from what makes them human: their family, their friends and their relationships with these loved ones."

Employees can dare to be rich

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

BY ERNIE O. CECILIA

WE'VE often heard the statement that nobody gets rich from employment except the corrupt and rotten ones. But, can an ordinary, well meaning employee become rich without joining the camp of Darth Vader of the dark side?

According to Thomas Stanley and William Danko who wrote about "The Millionaire Next Door," the formula for getting rich is "simple living, hard work, perseverance, planning and, most of all, self-discipline." If this is the formula for wealth, then the inhabitants of the workplace can also have a chance to become millionaires.

For my part, I believe that getting wealthy is a process of accumulating wealth. First, you create the wealth, then you accumulate it. But the secret in becoming rich is how to keep that wealth and not waste it. To the employee hard at work in the office, try these tips and see if you can become a "millionaire next door."

• Focus on creating wealth.

In whatever you do, always ask yourself, "Where will this lead to? Will it create value that other people would be willing to pay for?" If you are doing something that will not earn you or your company money, stop. If you will just spend your time and effort on an activity that does not produce positive results for you, think again. Maybe, it's not too late to shift to something more worthwhile doing.

• Accumulate wealth.

Millions of employees are just great in creating wealth. In fact, they excel in creating wealth for others but get a measly paycheck in return. But even with that measly paycheck, you can still accumulate wealth by not spending more than what you earn. At the end of the day, what matters most is not how much you've earned, but how much is left in your hands.

• Live a simple lifestyle.

Live below, not just within, your means. Don't keep up with the Joneses. Just because your neighbor bought a new car, you don't have to buy one too, if you don't need one–even if you can affotd one. Focus on absolute necessities without having to sacrifice basic comforts in life. Actual wealth is more important than perceived wealth, so don't show off.

> Strive to be financially independent and avoid debts

• Be a compulsive saver.

Don't be a compulsive spender; be a compulsive saver. As you earn, think how much you will save rather than how much you will spend. Give yourself a savings goal regularly, save part of your paycheck always, and periodically review how you are achieving that goal. When you fall short, work hard to save some more. When you achieve or exceed your goal, don't relent or celebrate by spending more.

• Be financially independent.

Strive to be financially independent and avoid debts. Debts enslave you to the creditor and snowball so fast that they can put you in a deeper financial quagmire than before you acquired your debts. When you have your own savings, you will not become a prey to loan sharks and you can tide yourself over in any form of emergency.

If your credit card is your greatest "sin," cut it—I mean, get a pair of scissors and cut your credit card into pieces. Then, pay your debt and "sin no more."

• Allocate your time and money.

Use your time, money and energy efficiently by allocating them to worthwhile activities that will lead you to your goals, dreams and aspirations of being wealthy. If you spend your time and energy on non-wealth generating ideas and activities, you lose opportunities to create more wealth. Invest some time in networking with people who can help you enhance your work, wealth and worth. Avoid people and activities that will deplete your energy and wealth.

• Have big dreams.

It's funny, but when you dream big, you usually make it big. When you dream small, you achieve small dreams. When you don't have a dream, you can't have a dream come true. Many of the millionaires started getting their millions by dreaming about those millions. They had a goal first, then they relentlessly pursued that goal with a lot of focus, perseverance, hard work, and resiliency. Don't let small failures douse cold water on your big dreams.

• Choose the right career.

Never get into a career by accident. If you did, make a careful and deliberate switch. Whatever your career now, it's never too late to reevaluate where you want to go and what you want to be. Some careers can give you better opportunities to gain wealth than others. Go or switch to careers that are needed more in the workplace over the long term. Learn the competencies that will enable you to do a variety of jobs and create value that people are willing to pay for.

• Seek market opportunities.

Be constantly aware of movements in the job market where you sell your skills. Find out what competencies are more relevant and develop them. Make yourself visible and known. Sell yourself by doing a consistently superior performance all the time. Join professional groups where you can display your expertise. Headhunters can help you scout for possible higher-paying and more responsible jobs. Have other wealth-generating opportunities to supplement employment, without unduly jeopardizing your employment and career. These opportunities could set you off to a new and better career.

• Exercise self-discipline.

Success requires self-discipline. This is the hardest part, because your worst enemy is yourself. With sale ads urging you to spend and with all the easy-to-pay schemes, you can lose in a second all the wealth that you painstakingly accumulated over the years. Before letting go of your money, no matter how small, think whether it is necessary at all to spend and if you are getting back the value that you truly need. Learn how to say no, particularly to yourself.

Following my suggestions may just give you that edge to achieve your dreams and have a better life. Janet Luhrs said, "Simple living is about living consciously and with a purpose. This means being in control of your money and your life. When you save your money rather than continue spending, you buy yourself control. Then, you have a say in how you'd like to spend your time."

There's absolutely nothing wrong with living a rich and abundant life. The Lord declared (in John 10:10) that "I have come to give life … and life abundant." So dare to dream, dare to be rich!

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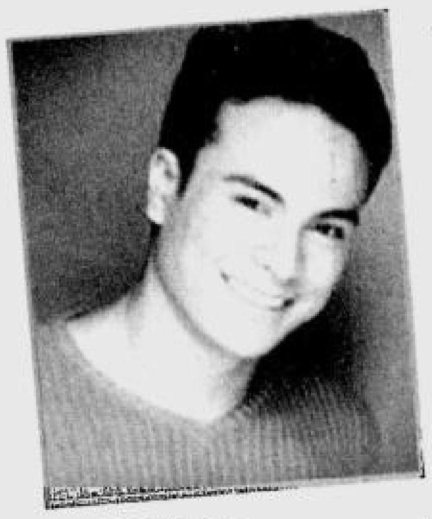
2bU!

BACK TO SCHOOL

Ready, get set -zoom



The gang's all here again—it's as if they never said goodbye. 2bU! gives a riotous welcome to the army of brats who will sweep the campus soon

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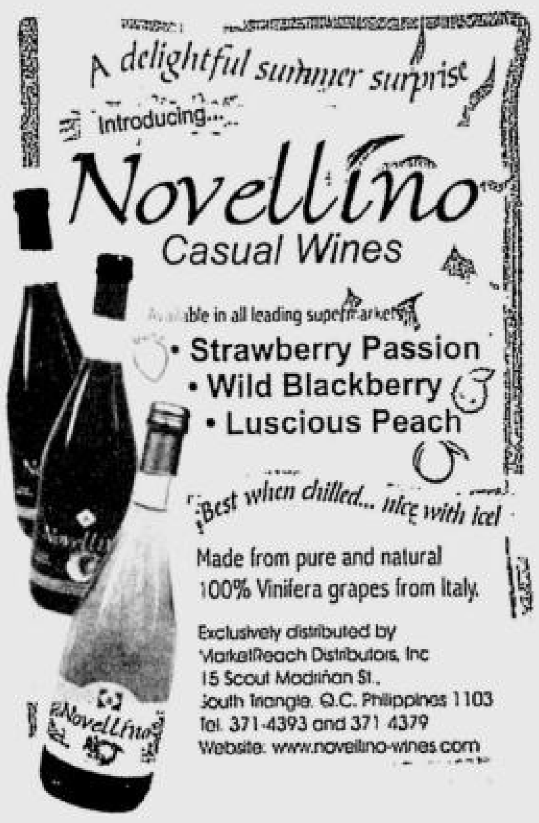

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Wake up, sleepyhead—or else!

Say goodbye to the snooze button. 2bU! attempts to help you shake off drowsiness

BY: PAM PASTOR

First day of school. Your ever-efficient clock is ticking away. The small hand is on the five, the big hand is close to six. Then you hear it. A shrill ringing in your ears. You reach out, hit the snooze button and burrow your head under your pillow, groaning. Yes. Waking up is such a pain.

Admit it. You've been a vampire for a while now. You sleep just before the sun rises and wake up a few hours before it's on its way down. That was fine for a time—it was summer after all. But now that the old, jolly halls are waiting for you again, oversleeping is a big no. You have to get up at the crack of dawn.

Before your body clock goes haywire, try some of the tips listed below. They've been tested by a vampire like you.

Hire a human alarm clock. If your alarm clock just won't cut it, turn to your housemates for help. Whether it's your mom, *lola*, brother or *yaya*, it doesn't matter. Just make sure the person is persistent. They can use different tactics—from gentle to violent. They can nudge you to consciousness, sprinkle water on your face, grab your blanket and pillows and tickle you 'til you wake up. I wouldn't recommend the latter one, though. The last time I tried using that on my brother, he kicked me really hard. If your human alarm clock's vocal chords are strong, they might want to try my mom's technique—scream at you 'til they see that you're already in the bathroom.

The bathroom theory. This one's gonna sound weird. But believe me, it works. Don't pee before you sleep. That way, when you open your eyes in the morning, you'll feel an intense urge to go to the bathroom. And when you stand up, you may as well say goodbye to drowsiness.

A twist to the good old alarm clock. Never put your alarm clock on your side table or headboard where it's easy to reach. Put it somewhere a few feet away—your dresser, or maybe your desk. This way, when it starts its racket in the morning, you'll be forced to get off the bed to silence it. Getting on your feet is half the battle.

Music to the rescue. Make sure your CD player/radio is good and ready beside you. When you first wake up, reach over and play your favorite upbeat song or tune in to the radio station that you love. Pretty soon, you'll be humming and tapping along to the beat.

Make Alexander Graham Bell proud. If you have friends who wake up early, ask them to do you a huge favor—have them call you in the morning and talk to you 'til you wake up.

The hi-tech way. They didn't put an alarm clock feature in your cell phone for you to ignore it. Set it to the highest possible volume. It would be better if your phone had a vibramode. Then put it near your head before you sleep. Just make sure you don't roll around in your sleep—you wouldn't want your phone to fall off your bed.

Fall in love. What-the?!?! Yes. There's nothing like a good old college crush to get you bouncing off your bed in the morning.

There. That should get you on your feet. And when it does—please, promise me that you won't go diving under the covers again.

E-mail the author at pammy@exchange.ph

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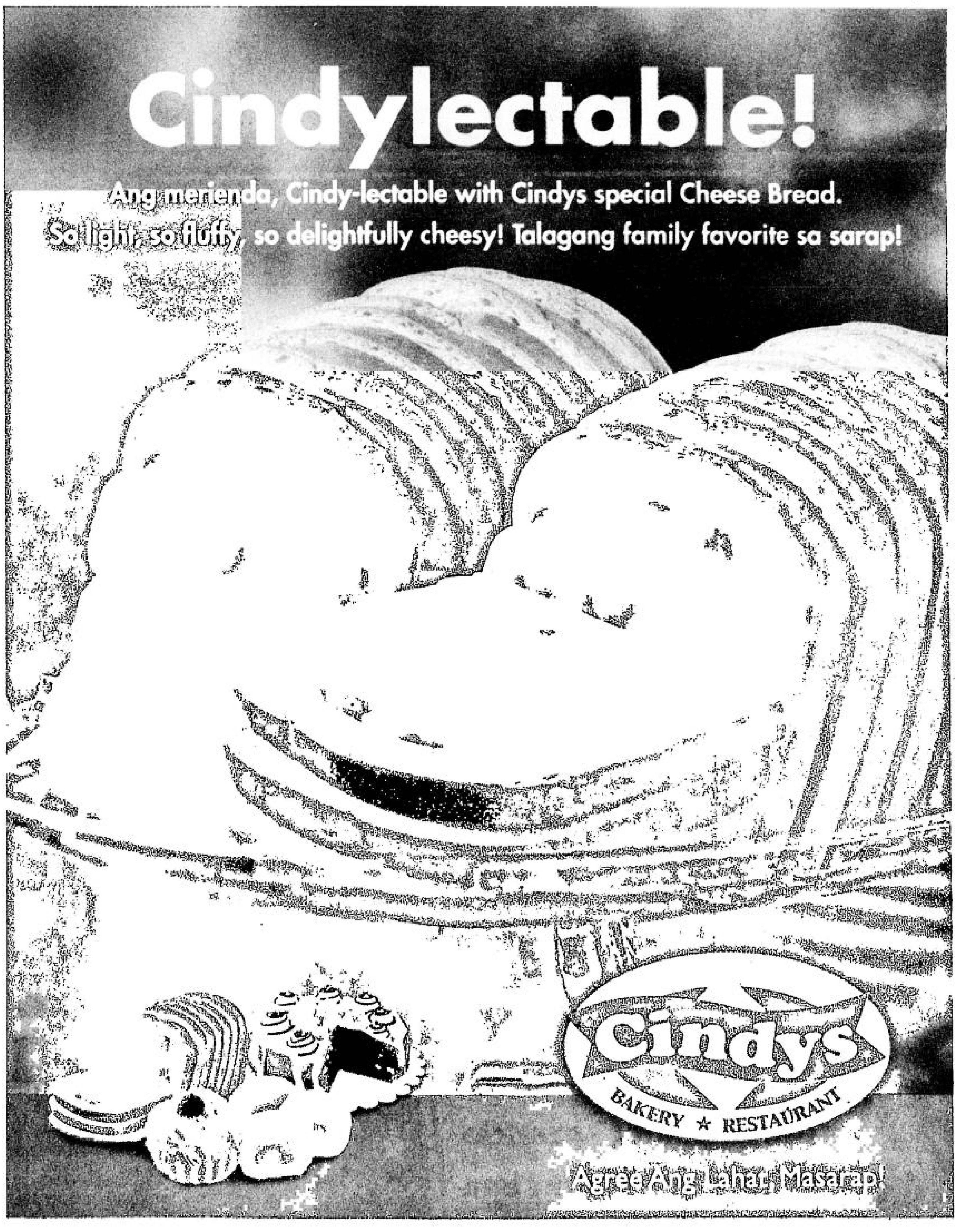
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What's going to be in your schoolbag?

AFTER SURVIVING the jostling, pushing crowd at your favorite bookstore, you're now ready for school. What's gonna be in your bag? Let 2bU! take a peek:

"Schoolbag? What schoolbag?"—**diablo_ep, 18**

"My Discman, pencils and sketchbook because I hardly pay attention in school."—**Maui Legarda**

"My school stuff, of course! Books, notebooks, calculator and my CDs."—**Patrick, 16, UST**

"Notebooks and a pen *para makapag-aral ng mabuti.*"—**Kat**

"Same old school stuff."—**Ceej, 17**

"Organizer, cell phone, class cards."—**Tesa, 19, UAP**

"*Di ako nagba*-bag *eh*! Hehehe!"—**Errol**

"Aside from books, a perfume is a must-have in my bag. And emergency money, in case I run out."—**Joseph, 15, Ateneo**

"Kopiko, to prevent sleepiness, and a handheld TV so I won't miss the NBA finals. Go Sixers! Oh, and I almost forgot. I'll be bringing a notebook, too."—**Michael Garcia, 21, UAP**

"School books, planner, *kikay* kit, pocketbooks, Gameboy, DVD player, snacks, radio, cellphone, Palmtop and Buck, my stuffed dog. All these things won't fit in my favorite backpack and sports bag. I'm thinking of bringing a stroller."—**Tammy, 18, ICA**

"My organizer, cell phone, pen, wallet, face powder, cologne and Smint."—**Pauline Moreno, 19, St. Paul's College Manila**

"My journal. I'll be writing nonstop while the teachers drone on and on."—**Pamster, 20**

"My Walkman, cell phone and Gameboy."—**Joey, 18**

"Lipstick."—**Minnie, 17**

"My wallet, my fat li'l Mead notebook and a pen."—**Jean, 18**

"Tupperware, which I can use as *tabo* 'coz I can't pee without washing. And extra underwear. You never know."—**Maxine, 21**

"I will bring my Bible to school. I like feeling that the Word is with me."—**Barbie, 23**

"Food! Tons of it! I was notorious for bringing *mangga* and *bagoong* to my third year high Geometry class."—**Scrappy, 20**

"Pen and paper and cell phone so I could keep in touch with my boyfriend."—**Mila Collado, 20, ADMU, business management**

"Pen, notebooks, bag, cell phone, P52 to buy my *tocino*, fried rice and royal for breakfast in the caf. And a cell phone to text Mila."—**Gino Lopez-Dee, 20, UA&P, management**

"Sunblock, cell phone and *kikay* kit!"—**Abby Briones, 21, PSID**

"A pen with those rubbery thingies to relax the fingers. Yellow pad—for some strange reason that's where I keep my notes. Diskette for storing those important files."—**BJ Bautista, UA&P, 21, IT**

"My HB, H and F Steadlers and my watch."—**Beh Villaluna, 20, PSID**

"Notebooks, pen and pencils, paper and clothes for training."—**Victor Miguel Alipio, UA&P, MSCM**

"I like bringing little toys to school. Bouncing eyeballs, fake cockroaches. *Wala lang*. Trip."—**Mike, 16**

With reports from Happy David

UK's hip fashion invades Manila

TOP UK shops Topshop, Topman and Miss Selfridge recently unveiled their Spring/Summer Collection for 2001 and formally launched their line into Manila's fashion mainstream at their first store in Robinsons Place Manila.

Topshop and Topman cater to the youth who has a flair for fashion and consistently predicts emerging trends and delivers it to their market. They pride themselves with their ability to innovate—turning runway fashion into a contemporary and affordable line for men and women.

For Spring/Summer 2001, retromania rules Topman's collection. Inspired by the brilliant '80s, the Topman guy will be hot in numbered jersey T-shirts with fleece zip-up jackets that fit perfectly with denims. On the other hand, working women will be glad to see what Topshop have put together—a mix of classic pieces edged with '80s funk. Bright sexy tops, miniskirts with attitude, dark flared hipsters and shirt dresses paired with the right bag and the coolest shades.

Miss Selfridge is for the fashion-conscious young miss who is daring and confident enough to wear the latest outfits, even the tiniest, sexiest numbers. Its versatility and reasonable prices are some of the keys that will make Miss Selfridge a hit with the young girls. Daring, funky and flirtatious, that's Miss Selfridge.

Their Spring/Summer Collection is described as American high-school meets English country garden. Flesh-baring, body-hugging, candy-sweet pieces that combine youth with allure. Feminine floral-patterned little dresses with plunging necklines, sequined halter tops and hipster pants paired with American-style team bomber jackets in the season's colors and schoolgirl pencil skirts.

Accessories complete Miss Selfridge's look, from hair clips to make-up, the party girl is ready for just about anything. They've got rose corsage hairpieces, sequined add flower designed bags and the hottest pink and orange lipsticks all in one store.

The catwalk style for the youth in the UK has been adapted to conform to street fashion and is now available here in Manila with Topshop, Topman and Miss Selfridge. Check out these three hip brands at Robinsons Place Manila.

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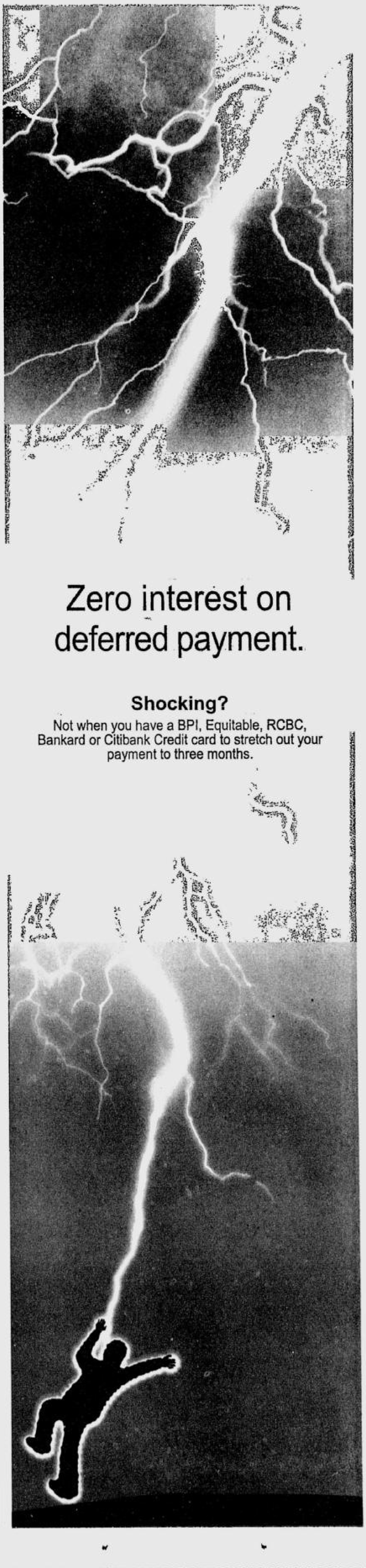
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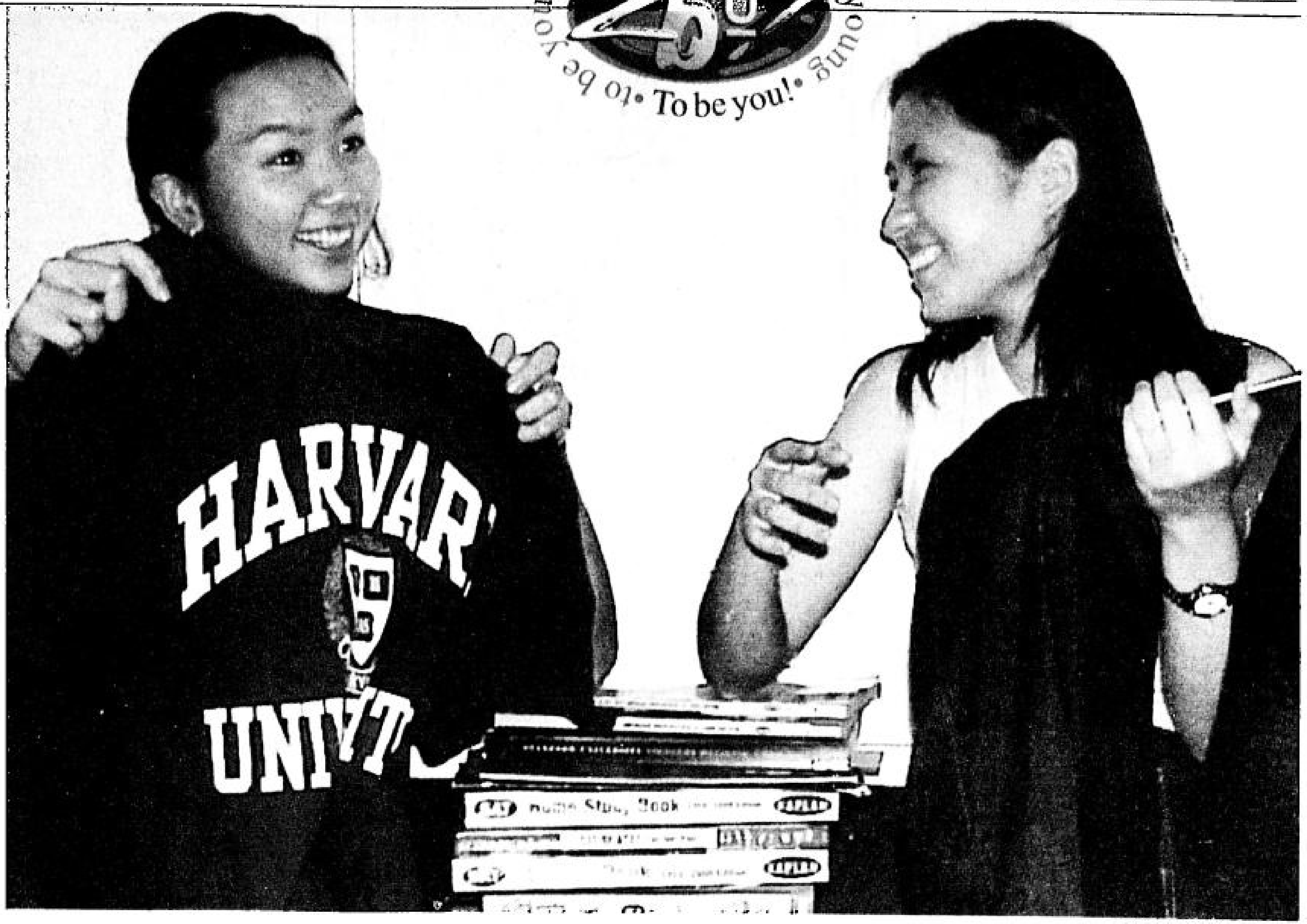


PHOTOS BY TAMMY DAVID

Two freshmen, two different paths

BY TAMMY DAVID
2bU! Correspondent

I remember when I was a kid, my classmates and I would talk about our college dreams. We dreamed of entering the University of the Philippines or the Ateneo. In the early high school years, the dream didn't stop at Diliman anymore but went as far as Boston and London. Some of my schoolmates were dead serious about studying abroad, but some of them preferred to stay here because they thought the Philippines had something better to offer.

So last Saturday I met with two former classmates, one bound for the United States this August and the other set to be a freshman at the Ateneo de Manila. We talked about some of our friends who were able to make it to the US and those, well, who made it but were not allowed by the parents. We also debated whether studying abroad was better than studying here.

Future M.D.

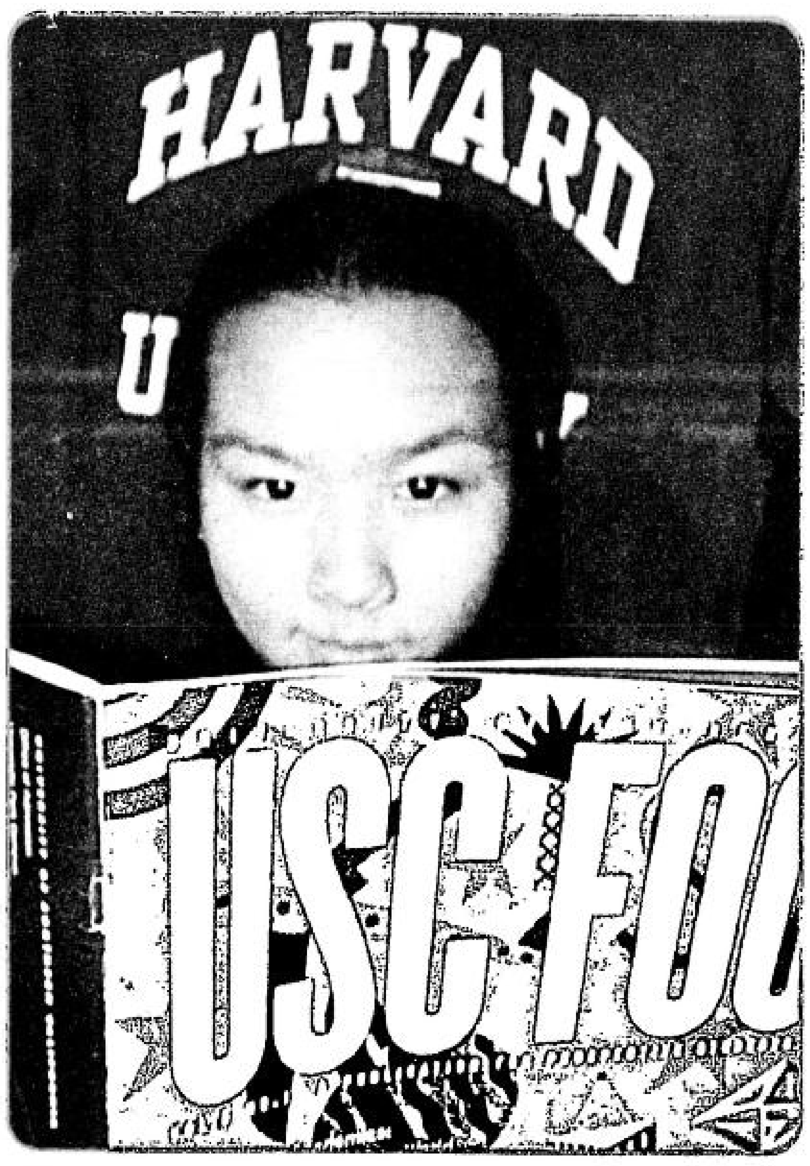
Eighteen-year-old Ellamae Jade Chua has always wanted to be a doctor. The "college bug" bit her as early as grade school and by the time we were in high school, she was obsessed with the brain, so we assumed she wanted to be a neurosurgeon. What made her even more obsessed was her visit to Stanford University, where her sickly sister was having a checkup at the Stanford hospital.

She set her sights on Stanford. Together with the other hopefuls in my star class, she took up the SAT and the ACT, buying tons of books, getting info from the Net and studying the costs of a US education.

At the last minute she cancelled her SAT because she was afraid of the results. She confided to UP teacher Enrico Namay. "He told me if I wanted to go to med, the best training would be in UP-PGH because the difference between med school in the US and here is, in the US they train you with the use of technology. In UP-PGH, since they lack technology, they train you to be independent," she recalls.

But she had to contend with the reputation of Philippine medical schools. "The reputation is not so good across the world. Like Stanford, they prefer Filipino nurses rather than American nurses, but I guess when you talk to a common person in the US they wouldn't think highly of a Philippine-trained doctor. So if you want to be world-class, you have to work hard."

Unfortunately, Ellamae wasn't able to get into UP. She was a bit crushed. She has instead enrolled at Ateneo to take up B.S. Psychology. "Psychology *naman* in Ateneo is one of the greatest," she consoled herself. "The professors there are into research. Ateneo also teaches the students to be intelligent and with character, so when you go out and have careers, you won't lose your marbles because you're grounded."



JONI puts the Harvard dream behind and looks foward to USC.

LOCAL girl Ella plans to practice medicine here.

Ella is happy that there is a food stip just outside the campus. Besides, her boyfriend is with her at Ateneo.

Underachiever

People in school wondered how Joni Lim and I got along well since I was an irregular student and Joni was the No. 2 in our batch of 220 girls. Joni was one of the "it" girls in school because she managed to be relaxed, down to earth and a little naughty at the same time. She was an honor student without the label geek. At home, however, she considered herself the underachiever in the family because of her two older brothers. "Joni's family is full of nerds, geeks! Geekazoids," Ella exclaims.

Joni agrees. "My eldest brother graduated valedictorian in high school and got a scholarship to the University of Southern California where he again graduated valedictorian," she says. "For master's, he went to Harvard Business School." Her other brother graduated salutatorian in high school and college at the University of Asia and the Pacific, then went on a scholarship to Syracuse University in New York.

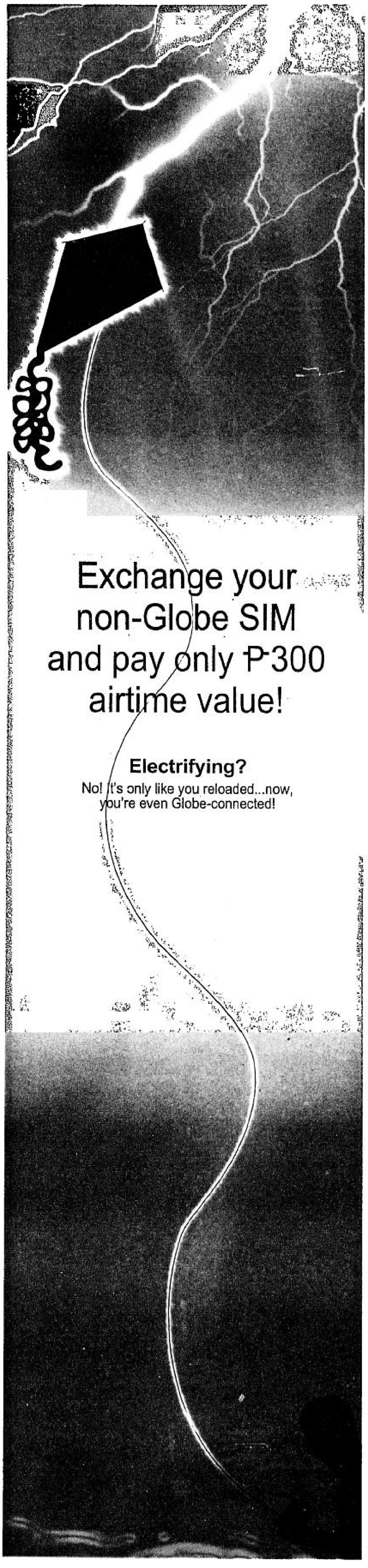
Joni's dream school was Wharton, where most of the successful Chinese-Filipino businessmen studied, but she was originally gunning for Harvard.

With the help of her brothers in the US, Joni began fixing her applications when we were still adjusting as freshmen. She pored over catalogs and like Ella, took the SAT where she got a high score without studying (1,390 out of 1,600) and now she's fixing her I-20 because she got accepted to the University of Southern California, a top business school.

"Somehow my passing USC is meant to be since I really want to get into business," says Joni. She plans to have a multinational business since her course is Business Management, International Relations and Computer Science. She got accelerated so she's going straight to serious business in her first year instead of third.

Joni doesn't regret her decision to get a US education. "I guess I'm thinking that if I study here, the education won't be worth much *kasi kita mo 'yung* former president, high school dropout. So here you become successful only if you have connections and I don't have any connections, so I want something that's [the result of] my effort and I want to get the results that I want."

Joni says she's ready with US campus life, including living in a dormitory. What about the infamous sex romp in US campuses? "It doesn't exist," she says. "I think they [the students] are all busy. It was probably invented by girls who wanted boys. Besides," she adds jokingly, "I plan to be a nun."



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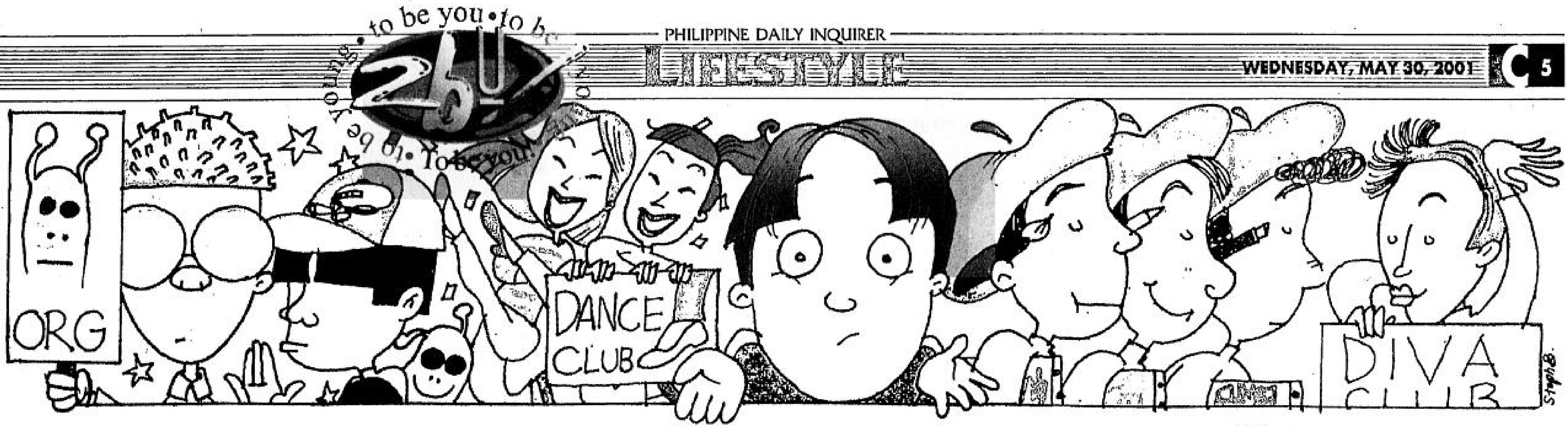

Start your own org

By Walter Ang

SCHOOL is about to start and you're raring to join one of the many campus organizations. The only problem is you don't feel like joining the Math Club and you're not so much interested in writing to try out for the school paper. The sound of Chemistry Society makes you cringe and the Drama Guild feels too intimidating to join.

None of the organizations or clubs offers anything that you might remotely be interested in. Too bad, what's an energetic, enthusiastic, eager person like you to do? What if, say, you're really into the esoteric arts and want to get in touch with other persons who like to read rune-stones? Start your own organization, of course!

Getting started

First thing you have to do is figure out what it is exactly that you're interested in. Make sure there aren't any other orgs that cater to your idea. If your search ends up in zero, then you're on your way to making waves. You'll have a good chance of succeeding if you've got something different to offer. A few years ago, an organization for homosexuals was put up in the University of the Philippines. So far, none of the other Catholic universities have followed suit. Yet.

Your org doesn't have to be politically motivated, however. It can be about anything under the sun. If you're into cars, you could initiate an Auto Action Club. Want to start a crochet club? Go right ahead.

Second step is to ask school authorities for the proper procedure in starting an organization. Certainly, you'll need to complete some paperwork, like filling out an application form and writing down a constitution. It helps to ask around for copies of the constitutions of other organizations, so you'll get an idea of how to draft yours. Of course, if you're going to start a Young Business Achievers Club, borrowing the papers of the school's Dance Club might not be too good an idea. But you never know what useful ideas you could utilize!

Next, you'll need to look for people who share the same interests. You can't have a club if you don't have members. Usually, there's a requirement for the minimum number of members for the school to approve your application. Ask around, set up posters, pass around flyers. Wear a funny hat to grab their attention. Once you know you're not the only person in school who wants to save rainforests, you'll have to decide on a set of officers.

Nitty-gritty

This special group of people gets to handle the nitty-gritty of running an org. From paperwork to logistics to reservations to handling money, they hold the structure in place. So when everybody runs off to the next Outdoors Club-sponsored mountain climb, someone will still have to stay behind to type the project report, finish the financial report and talk to sponsors. You get the idea?

Paperwork is a given when you're managing a school organization. It helps to have someone on board who doesn't mind typing excuse letters and filing documents. Someone who doesn't harbor murderous thoughts against the school secretary is an added bonus, especially if you need a lot of papers signed by the principal or dean.

Once your application has been approved, you can start planning activities for the school year. This is tricky since you don't want to schedule anything that'll coincide with long exams. The Auto Action Club can plan a campus exhibit and motor parts sale, kicking things off with a motorcade. A car auction with proceeds going to charity doesn't sound too bad either. The Comics Coalition could have a sale and invite local comics artists to grace the event. Workshops on drawing and comic book production can also be held. The newly established Felicitous Society of Jane Austen's Admirers could perhaps schedule tea drinking sessions and spirited readings of the author's works, or even fashion shows featuring modern takes on empire-cut gowns. How's that for fun?

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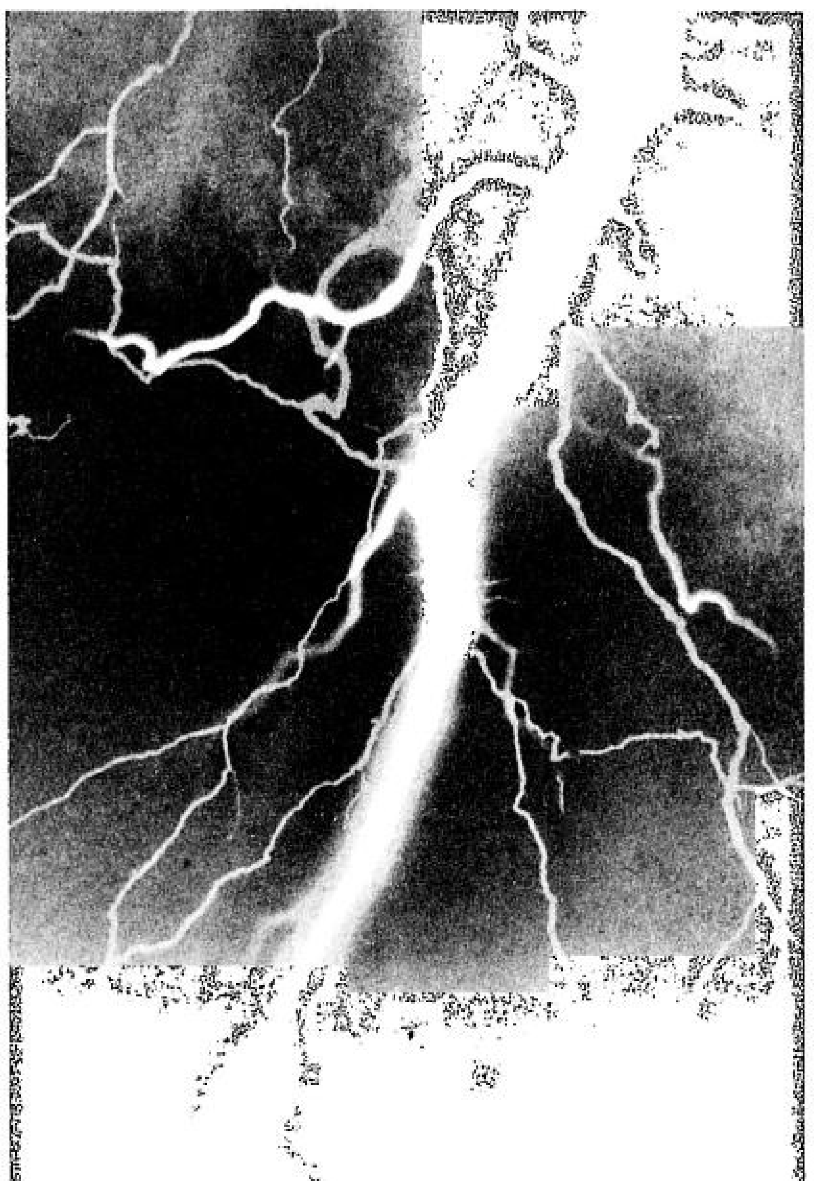

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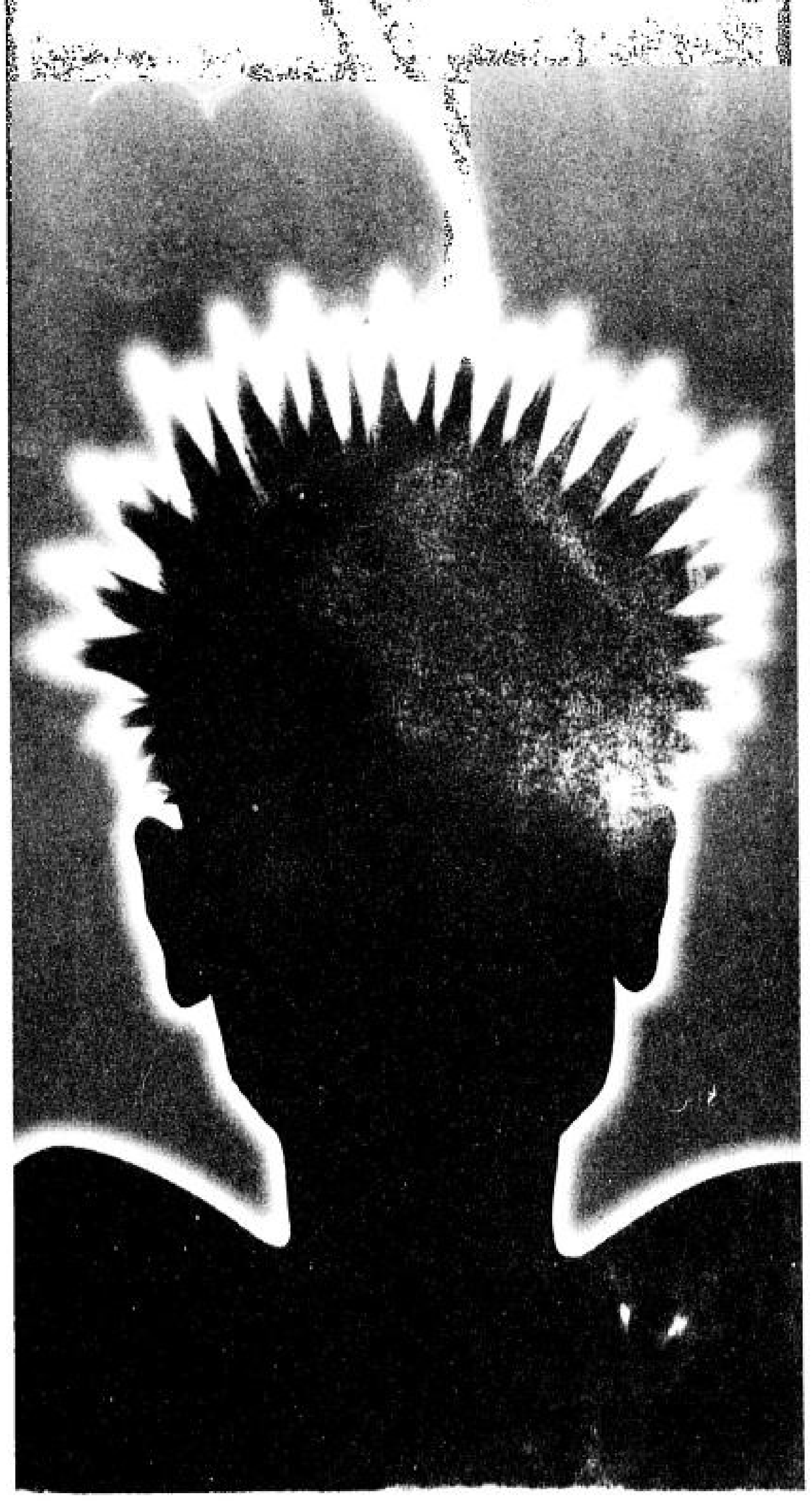

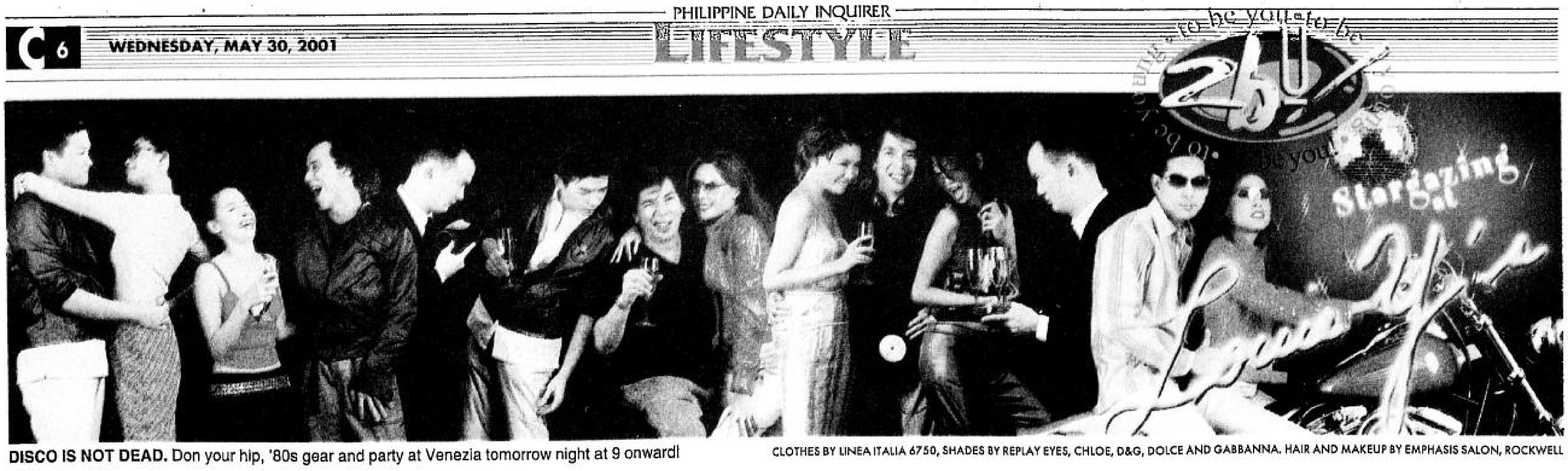

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Of long necks and shoulder pads

SYBIL says...

MY name is Rhett Ealllllaaahhh!!!!

SIBLINGS Venisse and Rajo Laurel

Tim Yap

"IT'S three in the morning..."

I drive by Ayala Avenue, taking a quick left to the Shangri-La where I notice that the usually pumping beat emanating from the nook of 6750 is unusually quiet.

As many of us know, Giraffe is now closed. And as of this writing, Matina, the Verve Room, Kemistry and Gotham, all J. Nakpil St., Malate nightspots, have also shut its doors.

Giraffe, one of the pioneers of Makati City night scene, had its swan song on a sudden, if not surprising note. Though the long-necked watering hole had survived way past its peak, Manila partyphiles didn't quite expect its demise, knowing well it survived on its predominantly expatriate (and the guys and gals that "luv" them) crowd.

According to a text message sent to me at 3 a.m. some weeks back, AOC (or **Antonio "Tonyboy" Ongsiako Cojuangco** to you and me) made a "snap" decision and just decided to close the establishment.

I tried to call the person who sent the text (later I learned that the message was sent to a lot of people in the scene), but the sender did not answer nor return any of my texts and calls.

Wake-up call

I found out from reliable sources that the reason for its closure was not shortage of funds (far from it), but labor and union issues

The insider also observed, "Before, the owners would go out a lot and entertain there." It was enough reason to have a bar. Now that they have all lain low from the scene, it has become a different story. Add to that the exodus of key people like party meister **Louie Cruz** and PR **Alta Tan. Fritz Weber** was the only one left in the team.

There was also the recession, which is still going on (not only here, but also in Singapore where some popular bars and clubs are closing as well). This should serve as a wake-up call for young society. Despite everything that is happening, we should propel the party scene ahead.

Hot spots like Il Ponticello, 78 Orange, Basement and others work because the people behind it are really into the scene. They love what they do and work hard in coming up with innovations. This vibe is easily felt and attracts people to a venue.

But from Ayala sources, I have gathered that the Giraffe board has not given up its gold mine of a location, but is planning on restructuring the venue—new place, new look, new people.

Let's cross our fingers that it happens soon. "Where do we go now?" is a question I hear quite a lot these days.

Indeed, "some good things never last..

'80s groovin'

COMING from designer **Rajo Laurel**'s birthday dinner at Macau Pigeon House (**Sander and Mons Romulo-Tantoco**'s latest baby) at Rockwell's Power Plant mall late last week, we excitedly headed straight to the NBC Tent to witness Manila on a time warp as songs like "Borderline," "Hi-Fidelity" and "The Reflex" echoed along the halls of the '80s dance concert.

DJ Joe Montes spun us back into the era of shoulder pads via "Back to Sybilization," an NBC spearheaded event with partners PLDT IDD, Smart, Zed, among others. That night had hits from A-Ha, Spandau Ballet, Duran Duran, China Crisis all vibrating with the 600 or so partyphiles eagerly awaiting the night's special guest, the Diva of '80s dance, **Sybil**.

The minute she stepped onstage the crowd went wild. One by one, she blurted out her hits—"The Love I Lost," "Walk on By," "Don't Make Me Over" and everyone's favorite, "Make It Easy on Me," to the delight of the children of the '80s.

It was interesting to note the difference of generations (of this era and of yesteryears) that saw the concert. Whereas the young ones now were somewhat familiar with her hits, humming along as she dished out one hit after another, the '80s stalwarts in the crowd were really grooving, as if possessed by the '80s beat.

From there, we headed to new hipster bar Flute (**Christine San Diego**'s latest, after Bistro 110), on H.V. De la Costa Street (in front of Makati Sports Club) where we continued our '80s reminiscing.

Observing the good turnout of people that night, my good friend **Atom Henares** commented that despite the lack of party venues nowadays, Manila would always look for ways to have fun.

It is definitely in us, that party spirit.

"'Coz there is always something there to remind me.."

Stargazing @ Louie Y's

TALKING about blast from the past, on this page you will see the sample invitation for Venezia's vestal tribute to the era of excess via "Stargazing @ Louie Y's! An '80s Dance Party."

"People who partied way back in that time always complain they have nowhere to go, what with the techno music all over. That's why we're doing this," says Venezia's very own **Aya Perez**.

Adds events manager **Steff Jacinto**, "For the young ones, it would be refreshing to experience this kind of music, not to mention the great mix of people who would be present at the event—old and new faces combined makes for one hell of a vibe!"

And, with nightlife royalties **Louie Ysmael** and **Chito Melo** dishing out Stargazer and Louie Y's (yup, that's him!) anthems, what can go wrong?

That must-attend event happens tomorrow night, 9 p.m. onward at Venezia. Don't forget to come in your most '80s-looking gear.

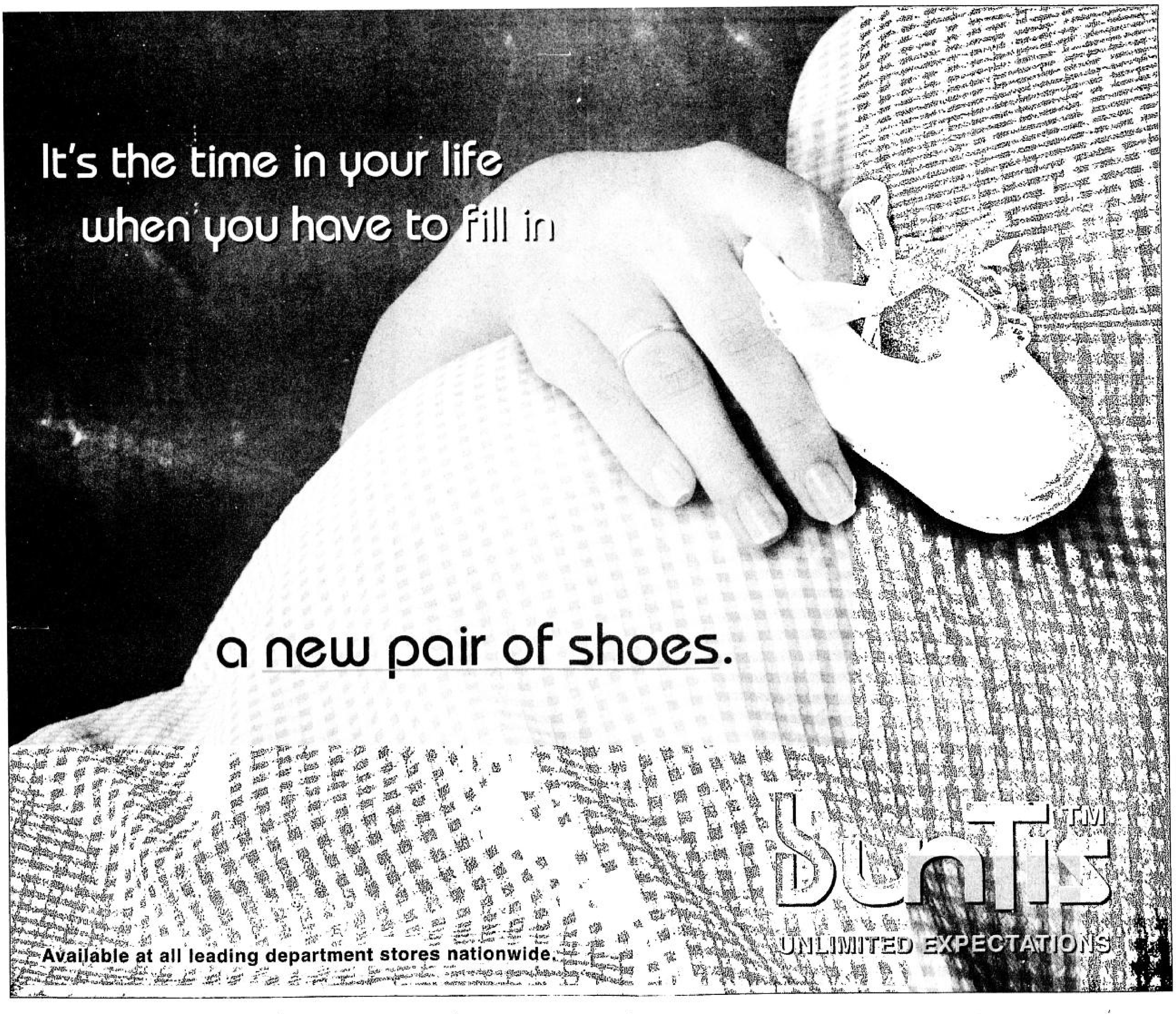
So, what are we waiting for? Let's "do the hustle"!

AT THE NBC Tent were Atom Henares, Tina Tinio and Tina Montinola

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

FLUTE fabulous! Eman Pineda and Christine San Diego

FOUR PLAY. Martin and Tanya Lichauco with Tessa and Gerard Coscolluela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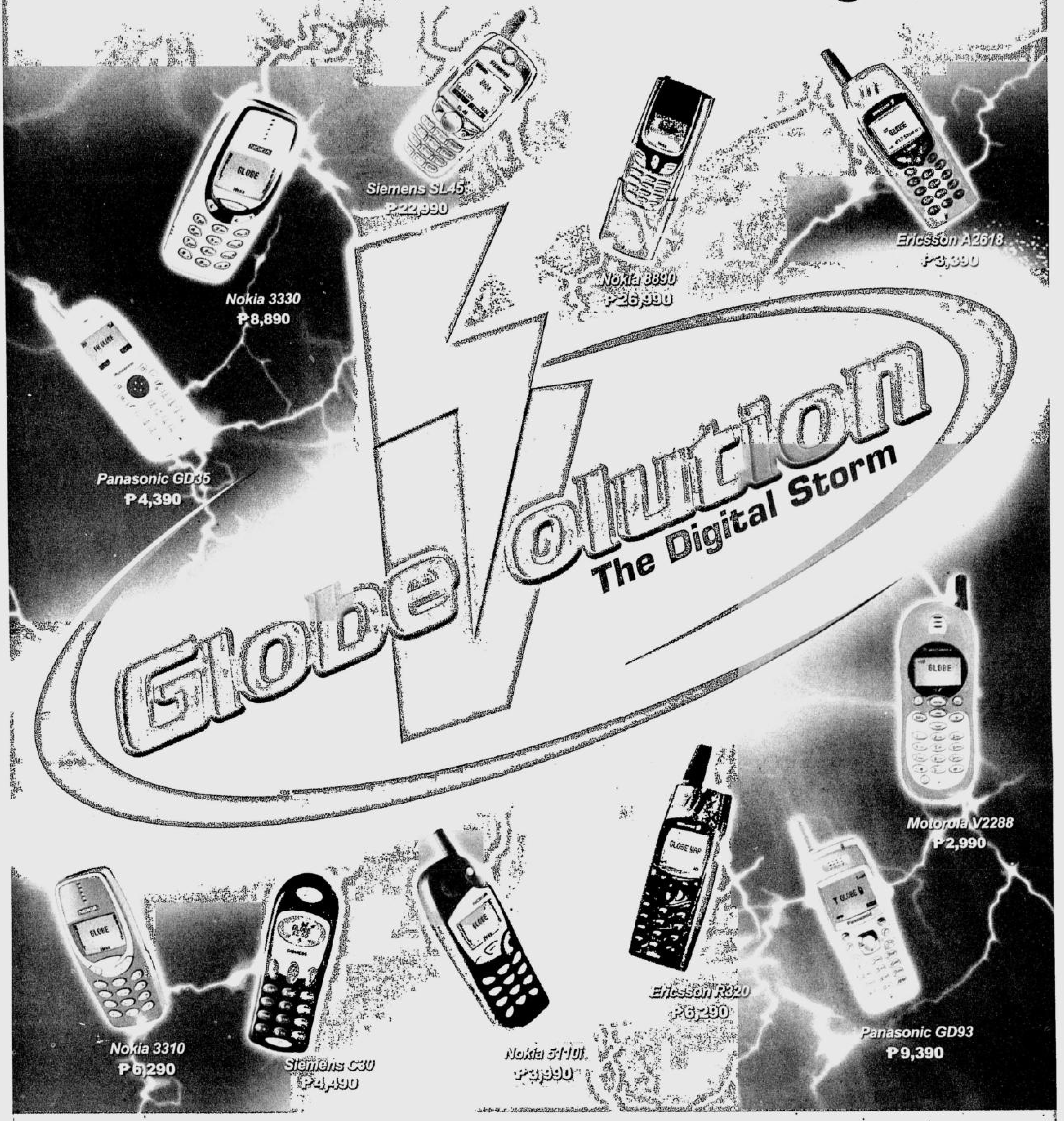
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Last hurrah for seniors

By Julie Hudtohan
2bU! Correspondent

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

IF you're an incoming high school or college senior, the onset of the school year inevitably leaves you grappling with a mix of emotions. Part of you is mighty proud to finally be at the head of the pack. (At last, a chance to creatively *answer* the question "*Saan ba 'yung* classroom *na* TBA?" instead of asking it helplessly!) But part of you is prematurely sentimental as well even if you refuse to acknowledge it. In fact, *barkada* beach towel conversations over the summer have constantly reverted to the can-you-believe-how-fast-time-flies discussion.

You want to make the most of the 10 months ahead of you and live each day of this schoolyear to the fullest. You want to immortalize even the most mundane and silly pleasures of school life in your mind's eye. And be able to look back on this year come March with a few regrets and many rich experiences. Here's a list of must-dos to cap some of the best four years of your life, a handy roadmap for this final journey ahead—from someone who enjoyed this "last hurrah" trip so much, she'd take it again many times over.

Go on a food trip. Every school has its set of classic favorites, food that alumni still talk about at homecoming celebrations and batch reunions. These are the same foods they always ask schoolmates from lower batches about (i.e., a UP grad checking if "*masarap pa rin ba 'yung barbecue sa* Beach House?"). My mom's batchmates and students still hunt for the cans of Assumption Tarts every Old Girls' Day. Good friend Jeanne Dy recommended the Beach's (no relation to UP's) lamb chops during a tour of La Salle. And, of course, I still crave the Kung Food *siomai* and rice that used to be a standard Ateneo comfort meal along with Manang's *inihaw*.

Make sure you don't let the year go by without savoring these dishes. They may come out of your ears (or should I say, mouth?) because you've been eating them since your freshman year, it's still better to be safe than sorry. You never know, you just might end up missing them when there's no opportunity to partake of them anymore. And what if your school's cafeteria food is known for being across-the-board inedible? Well, make sure you try it at least once. When reminiscing time comes, you wouldn't want to be the lone grad from your school who can't talk firsthand about how horrible the food was!

Get picture happy. All through college, I refused to join the ranks of the picture happy. I never brought a camera to any gimmick, never recopied anyone's rolls of film or had something Image Magic-ed (except for those gazillion 2x2 head shots for internship hunting!)! Even during birthdays, Mom was the one who'd think of bringing the trusty family Minolta along. I always thought that I could keep the memories crystal clear in my head, and photos weren't needed. But now I know better. This early, the faces have started to fade, the details of the places I've been to have gotten fuzzy, and the clutter in my brain has pushed the images out to the far fringes making retrieval quite a mental challenge.

Aside from having tangible mementos of the fun times you've had with your *barkada*, orgmates or teammates, the photos will also come in handy when fixing up collages or a personal page for the yearbook, a video for someone's birthday, debut or even wedding. For a few demented friends, keeping photos is also a way of keeping track of who dated whom and when. It makes for pretty interesting conversation a few years down the road, when all heartaches have thankfully healed. And besides, you never know—your ex just might end up being a star (or heaven forbid, a politician) someday. Then you'll have the hard evidence you need when your friends or kids don't believe your stories about your shared past!

Fulfill that "impossible" dream. Remember those big dreams you had as a freshman, way back when you had visions of grandeur about becoming the next big man or woman in campus? We all started out in high school or college with a quiet resolve to claim five minutes of fame. And yet when the academic grind and the demands of our social calendar began to take their toll on our schedules, we let go of these dreams—and fulfilling them became next to impossible because our iron-strong guts had degraded into mush over time. What was that org you always planned to join, that team you always intended to try out for, the Student Council office you said you'd bring to its greatest heights if you'd get elected?

Take a quick walk down memory lane before Recruitment Week comes so you know what to gun for. Run after those dreams once and for all! Senior year is your last chance to fulfill them and finally find out if you have what it takes. There's no better time to put a flame to that small spark of passion you've been trying to squelch these past three years than now. If you're a high school senior, finding out what you're good at and what you love doing will serve you well in the future. It just might help you decide what course to take, or what activities to join in college (so you can avoid option paralysis at the even larger recruitment salvos there). And if you're a college senior, it can help you decide what kind of career you'd like to get into after you graduate—and yes, it will look good on your resumé if you get involved in something apart from bench-bonding gimmicks.

See the sights, do the events. Get your full of your favorite spots and events in the vicinity of your campus, and even on-campus, if yours has its share of noteworthy ones. If you're planning to go to a different part of the metropolis, country or globe for college/work next year, better make the most of the months ahead. Tour your favorite places with your *barkada*, perhaps picking one for your gimmick destination whenever you can. Watch a Tanghalang Ateneo or Matanglawin play at the Rizal Mini Theater, go to your high school fair and dance (and the ones at the all-boys' school next door), line up eagerly for the Oblation Run, load up on fashion finds and CDs at Taft's UM, staff one more time for Days with the Lord.

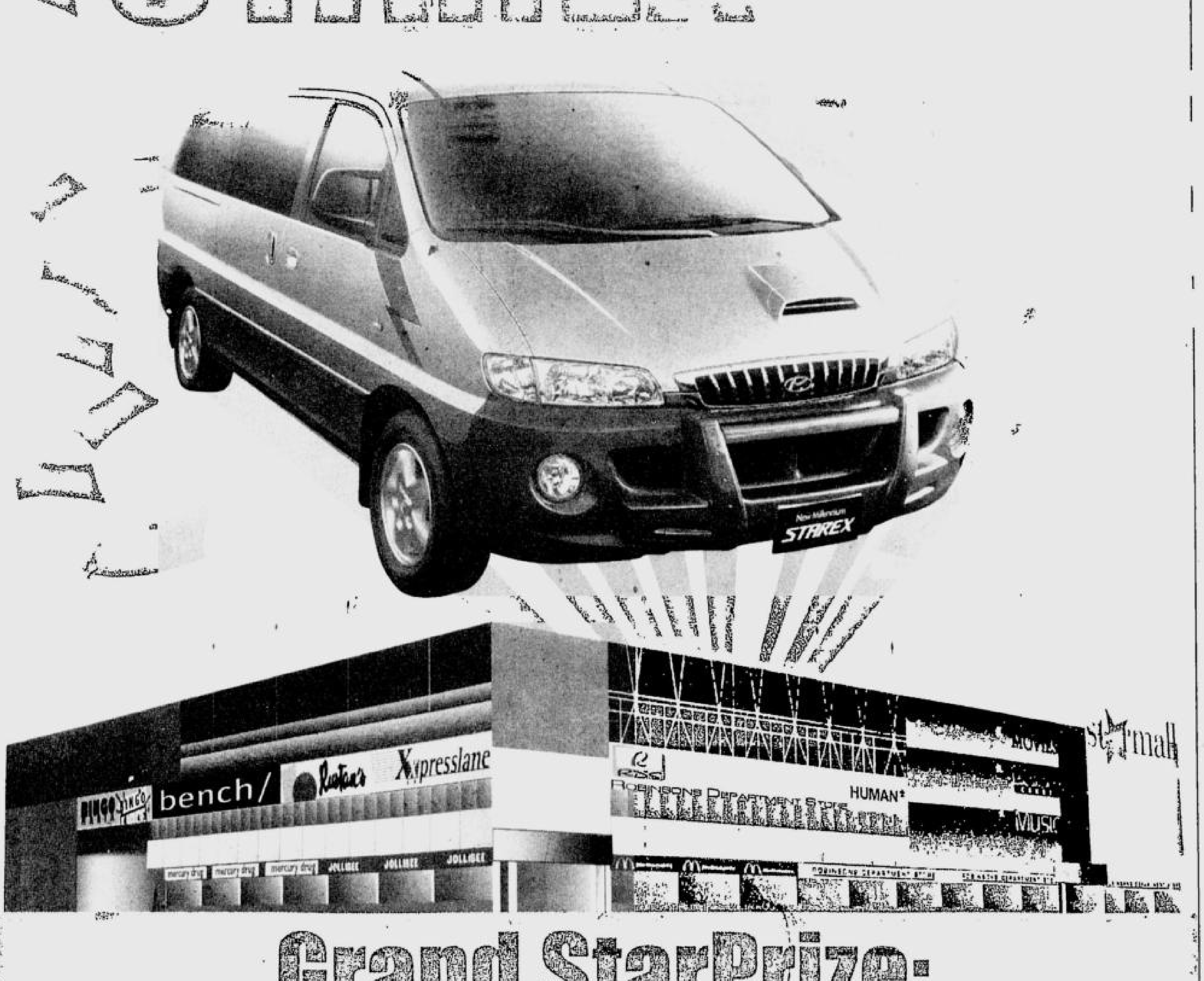
And as each circle of friends has its own set of private traditions, make sure you get your full of those, too. Whether it's an afternoon basketball at the village court and all-nighter PlayStation marathons for the guys or slumber parties and shopping excursions to Tutuban and Baguio for the girls, make sure you make time for these bonding moments despite the academic pressures of senior year. While you'd like to think that things will stay the same even after grad, there's also the possibility that things will change inevitably once the diaspora sets in come March. And if you're planning to stay in a dorm during college, or live alone far from home, try to spend some bonding time with your parents and siblings.

Touch base with local heroes. It's usually a love-hate relationship, this teacher-student thing. But sometimes you meet teachers who are truly mentors—wise not only with regards to their subject matter, but also gurus on the most important lessons in life. For me, it was Ms Villamor and Ms Sison at JASMS Manila, Ms Yogore and Ms Padilla at Assumption High School, and practically everyone I had the honor of meeting at Ateneo. Each school has its share of local heroes, those who get their message across even to the most skeptical and cynical of students. We respect them, admire them, and are proud to call them not just sir or ma'am, but friend. Make sure you touch base with these legends before you leave your school. They're bound to have some last words of advice before they send you out into the real world of college and career.

And don't forget the other heroes too, those who are not as visible as the legends we meet in the classroom but just as important and just as well loved. The guard who makes sure the school bus doesn't leave you after basketball practice, the *manang* at the Xerox machine who hasn't filed a case against you despite the size of your credit account, the library custodian who helped you find that book you needed for your major paper. Make sure you say your long overdue thanks before the year is over.

This list could go on and on. The journey through senior year is a lot like walking along the beach on the last day, in search of the perfect finds to bring home as mementos of an especially memorable vacation. Different people will pick up different things depending on the experiences they had and the people they met in the last three years—so *you* will still be the best person to decide just what to pick up and take with you.

Make the most of your final year and enjoy the journey while it lasts. Suck the marrow out of school life before March 2002 creeps up on you, before you find yourself a neophyte in the whole new ballgame of college or corporate life, at the onset of that dreaded freshman year all over again. But that's an entirely different story, one we'll save for next time. So, congratulations 10 months in advance and full speed ahead, seniors!



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Class of 2001

To put you in the mood to go back to school, 2bU! presents the quirky characters every campus has

BY HAPPY DAVID
PHOTOS AND ART DIRECTION
BY MIKE ALQUINTO

You've seen them in high school movies, in teen mags—they walk around in your own campus. They are the unavoidable stereotypes. They are everywhere. You can't escape them. It has gotten to a point where school isn't about studying. It's about dealing with people.

CLASS/ p.D2

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Class of 2001

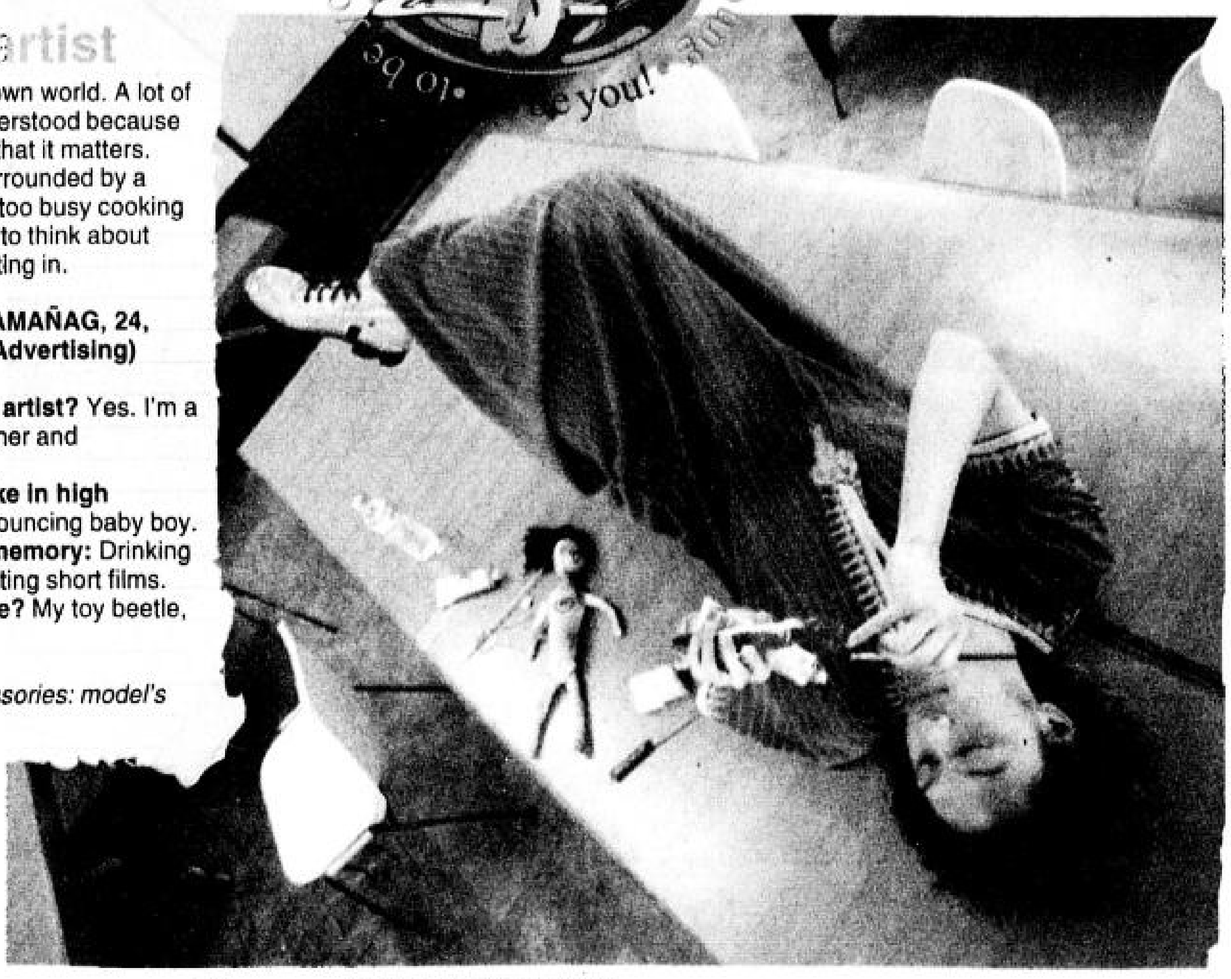
The artist

The artist has his own world. A lot of times, he's misunderstood because he's different. Not that it matters. He's constantly surrounded by a cloud of creativity, too busy cooking up his next project to think about trivial things like fitting in.

ARCHIE JUDE CAMAÑAG, 24, PWU, Fine Arts (Advertising)

Are you really an artist? Yes. I'm a graphic web designer and photographer.
What were you like in high school? I was a bouncing baby boy.
Favorite school memory: Drinking gin *bulag* while editing short films.
School must-have? My toy beetle, water gun.

Clothes and accessories: model's own



The jock

Usually tagged as a brainless mass of muscles, the jock spends most of his time pumping iron and practicing for the next game when he's not raking in medals. Girls chase after him, all eager to wear his varsity jacket.

JV MONTINOLA, UAP, Management

Are you really a jock? I'm into fitness but I don't consider myself an expert of one thing. I believe being healthy and being fit builds one's character.
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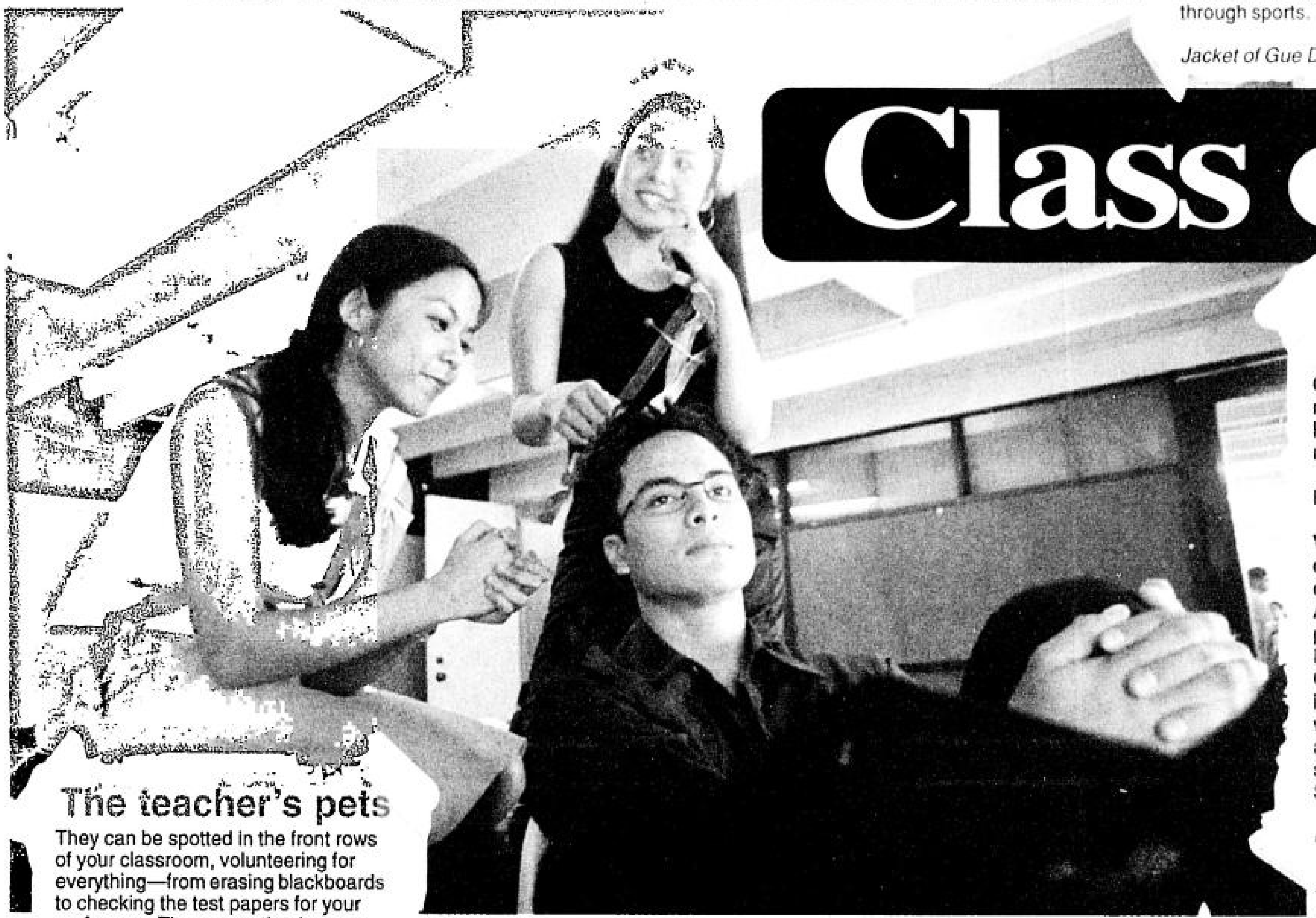
Jacket of Gue David



The teacher's pets

They can be spotted in the front rows of your classroom, volunteering for everything—from erasing blackboards to checking the test papers for your professors. They are tattletales, eager to please at the expense of others.

JAMILLA CECILIA L. GOMEZ, 19, UST, BS Psychology

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Clothes and accessories by Fish

Mr. Perfect

Good-looking, popular, intelligent, talented and nice—this guy has everything and the girls know it. They flock around him. He's one of the reasons girls go to school.

RAFAEL ROSELL, 18

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Clothes and accessories: model's own

LOCATION: PHILIPPINE SCHOOL OF INTERIOR DESIGN, PASONG TAMO
STYLING: HAPPY DAVID
SPECIAL THANKS TO ELSIE PETROLA, LORETO RUZ, GRINGO RUZ OF PSID

CLASS/ p.D4

The rebel

The nonconformist. She marches to the beat of her own drum, not caring about what everyone else thinks.

ANNA KATRINA "KITCHIE" NADAL, 20 DLSU, AB Psychology

Are you really a rebel? No.
School must-have: Pen, paper.

(The second album of Mojofly, of which Kitchie is a member, will be out in July-August.)

Top by Fish

The exchange student

She stands out—needless to say, she's different. She should be wary of pranksters lurking around, eager to teach her cuss words in the local language.

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Favorite school memory: The stupid things I've done with my cool friends—smoking and sneaking out of the school to chill around.
School must-have: Money.

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The flirt

She walks around campus scantily clad, seemingly oblivious to the gasps and catcalls. Just one pout or whimper is enough to have guys rushing to her side, ready to serve her hand and foot. The males of the species may adore her, but she constantly has to deal with raised eyebrows from the less popular girls.

DRINIE AGUILAR, 20, CSB, Consular and Diplomatic Affairs

Are you really a flirt? No, I'm not a flirt. But I can be—and I can be very subtle.
What are you like in school? I'm *magulo*. I'm really *maingay*. I always have fun. I study. I'm, like, a nerd who knows how to have fun. It may seem like I don't study but I do—I can get good grades and be *maingay*. In high school (La Salle Zobel), I was so into sports—soccer, swimming, taekwondo. I'm still into sports, water sports. I love surfing. I practically live in La Union.
School must-have: I always carry a bottle of mineral water and my cell phone—even in class.

(You've seen Drinie in her numerous commercials. You will soon be able to watch her in a new TV show—the local version of "The Practice"—where she will play the rebellious younger sister of Richard Gomez.)

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The 'Pilyo'

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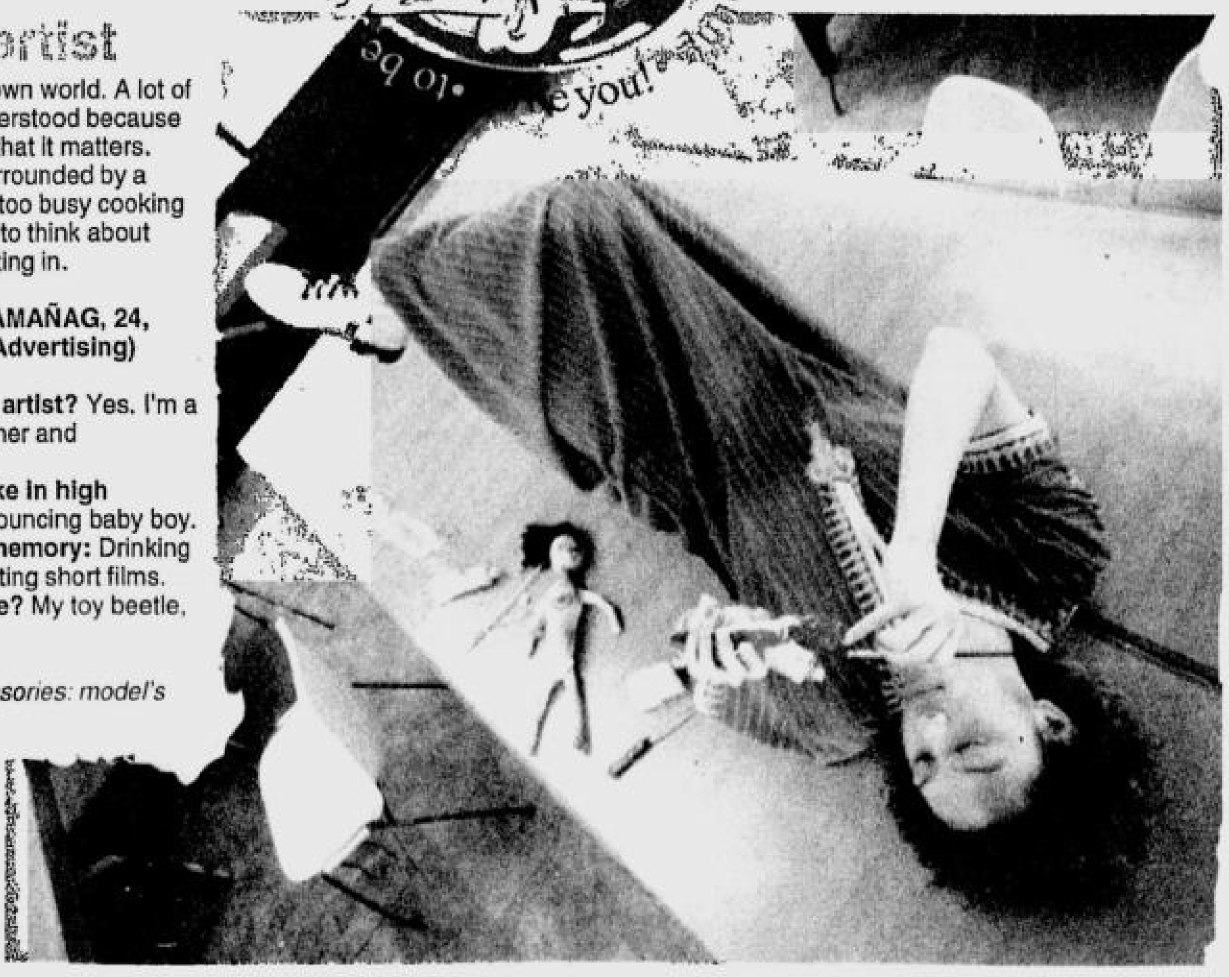

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CLASS/ p.D4

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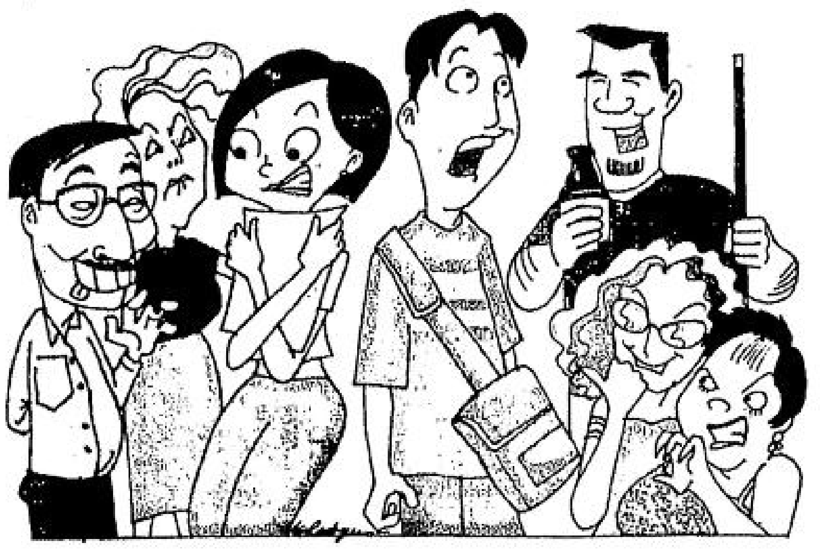


Freshman, here's what you should expect when you step into a university

Battlefield college

By Kristine Ching
2bU! Correspondent, De la Salle University

THERE will be one major topic for high school grads as I'm writing this: College, your highway to the real world. One of the things that you'll be thinking is how are you going to survive college, or how to live the cool college life. The movies portray college as one big party and not much studying, but in the sick sad world, it's not! Here's a guide on what and what not to expect as you enter college.

Freshmen orientations will only give information about college buildings, school lingo, enrolment, adjustment, student council's programs and study tips. You'll probably recall a quarter of it because you're busy scanning for cute guys/chicks or you couldn't accept the fact that summer will be over in a few weeks. Other than that, you'd have to learn it by yourself.

You'll become an instant economist and adventurer. You'll learn to eat at eateries (small restaurants cheaper than fast foods) because your allowance will cover other expenses like movie tickets, CDs, computer rentals, etc. If you're one of the unlucky ones who's got three-hour breaks, you'll also learn to watch Tagalog flicks to pass time (because you've watched all the other movies).

A trip to the nearby mall is therapeutic. It cures heartaches, stress (from the academic load) and depression from failed grades and a terror professor who's giving you a hard time.

Another way to pass time is playing billiards. Upperclassmen would joke about taking the "special course."

You'll become independent (Ah, the much awaited freedom!). You'll make your own decisions on "Should I cut accounting for a drinking spree with my friends or not?" or "Should I do my homework at break time or watch the latest J.Lo movie and do my homework when I get home?"

Tough decisions, huh?

You'll have to be street smart. Being street smart is actually a major asset when you apply for jobs. Most companies hire street smarts for top positions while the dean's listers work under them. I've heard a dozen stories about this.

Places to be seen

The study hall also is not a place to study. It is an in-campus Malate/Power Plant, a place to be seen, and to check out campus heartthrobs. The next place to spot campus heartthrobs are canteens. They also serve as study hall, a place where hungry students try to nourish both body and brains. If you really want a quiet place to study, go to nearby coffee shops or tea bars like Starbucks. (You'd have to order food, of course!)

Learn to manage your time. Have a schedule and stick to it. Then again parties are unexpected, and it's darn hard to resist it. Give in, but try to follow your schedule as much as possible.

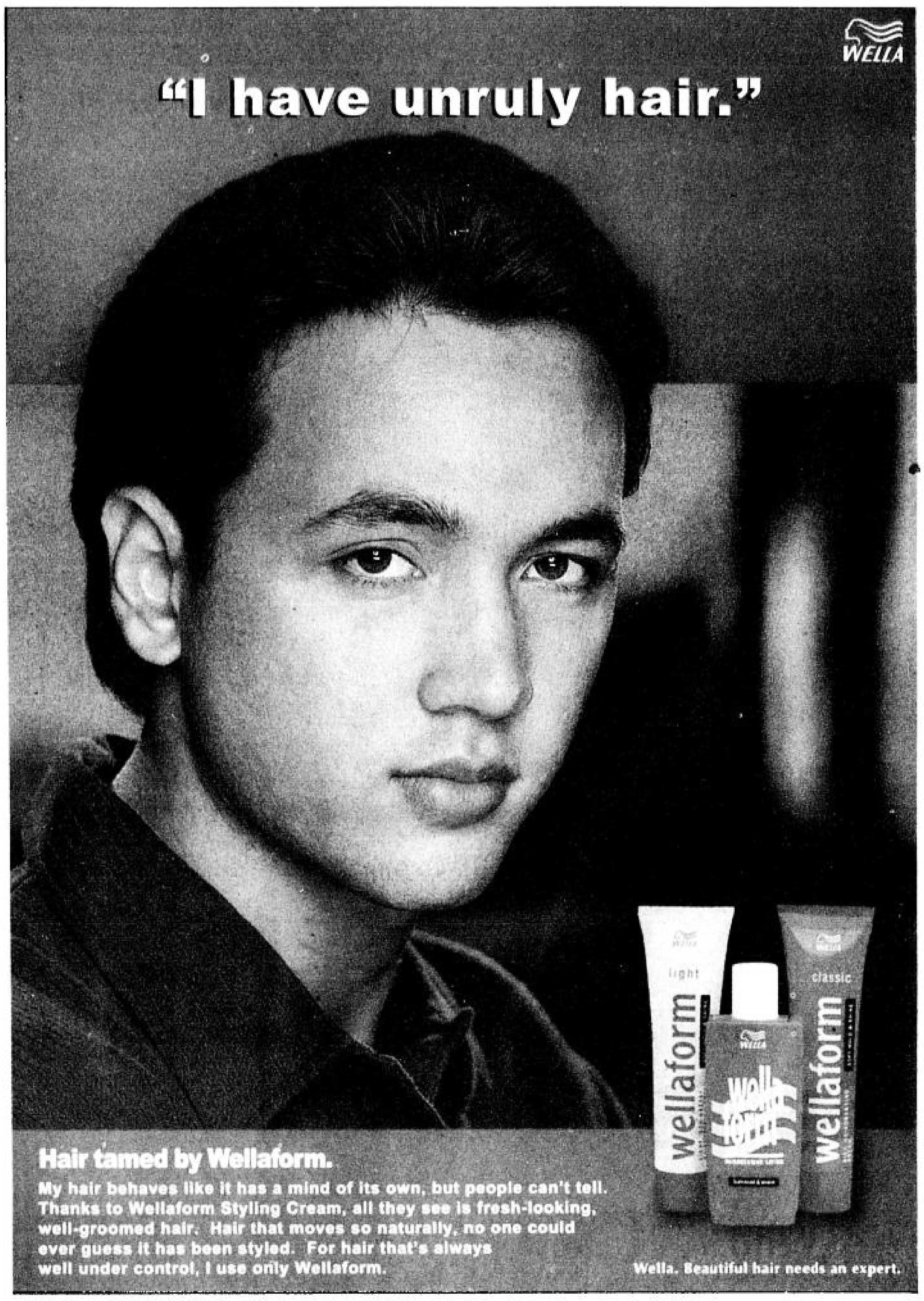
Your diet will consist of rice meals, *sisig*, *inihaw*, burgers, fries and soda. Freshman 15 isn't a myth. Some guys I know created their own budget meals like chicken *chicharon* with rice or *siomai* with rice. If you haven't eaten *sisig*, you haven't experience college life.

Joining school orgs is one way to meet new people. Join as much orgs as you can, the more orgs you join, the more people you'll meet (but more money will be spent). They will also come in handy if you're already working or have started your own business. Either they become your contacts or business partners.

Don't study every single break time or pass time at the library. Enjoy your life... please!

Attractive females are in danger of being harassed by maniacs or worse, professors. There's

BATTLEFIELD/ p.D7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"I have unruly hair."
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Mula sa kamay ni kuya, puwedeng maipasa ang germs kay baby. Kaya dapat, mag-New Band-Aid® Brand 70% Isopropyl Alcohol muna. Ito ay may **non-drying formula** kaya gentle sa balat ng bata, at pati na rin sa iyo.
Ang ***BAND-AID® Brand ISOPROPYL ALCOHOL non-drying formula*** ay bahagi ng
BAND-AID® BRAND PROTECTION LINE
Halik at proteksiyon ni mommy
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Class of 2001

The innocent girl

Naturally naïve, sweet, vulnerable. This is what sets her apart from all the other girls.

MA. OLIVIA SIOZON, 17, St. Paul's Pasig

Are you really sweet, shy and conservative? Sweet and shy, yes. Conservative, not really. I'm a little frank, super friendly.
What are you like in school? I'm a regular student. I slept in class, hated my teachers and I loved to dance.
Favorite school memory: *Barkada*—bonding between classes.
School must-have: My mirror and brush which everyone borrows.

Clothes by Fish, bag is stylist's own

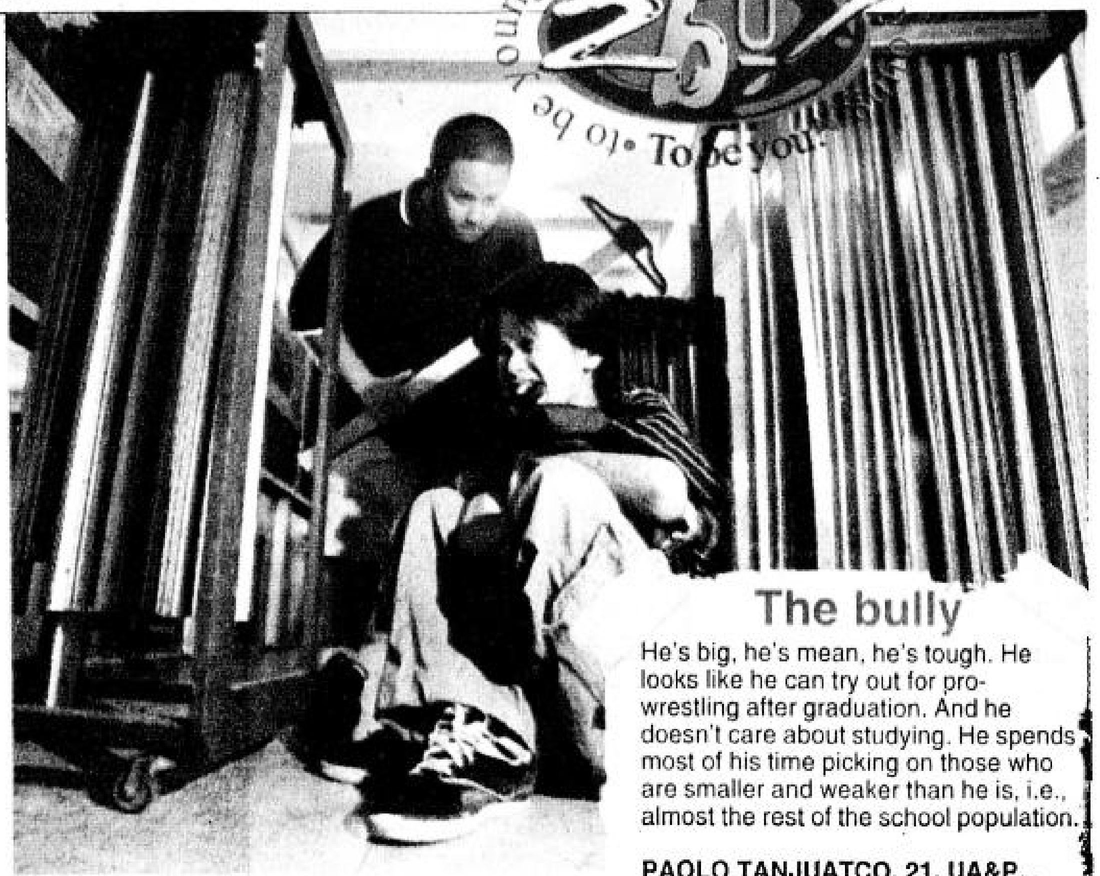
CHRIS CRISTOBAL, 20, UA&P, Management

What are you like in school? I'm studious but *kalog*, outgoing, friendly.
Favorite school memory: Nothing really great happened in school. All the fun happens during vacation.

GIAN CONDE, 21, UA&P, IT

School must-have: Backpack, pen, hat and cigarettes.

Clothes and accessories: model's own



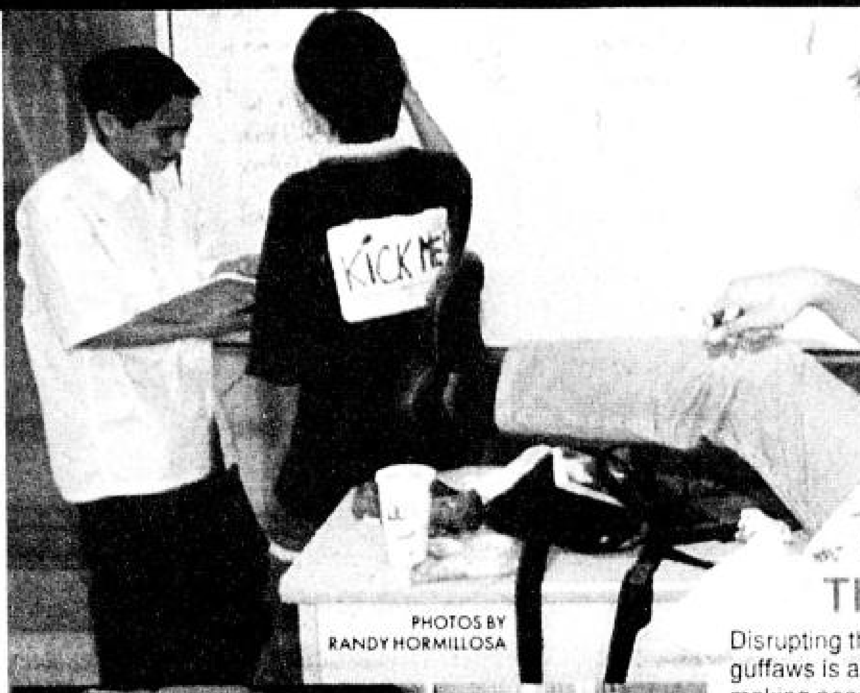
The bully

He's big, he's mean, he's tough. He looks like he can try out for pro-wrestling after graduation. And he doesn't care about studying. He spends most of his time picking on those who are smaller and weaker than he is, i.e., almost the rest of the school population.

PAOLO TANJUATCO, 21, UA&P, Management

Are you really a bully? I was before. I used to push around my classmates since I'm big. But not anymore. College is different. When you grow old, you're more focused. Bullying is a kid thing.
Favorite school memory: High school graduation. I felt that I had achieved something and I was getting somewhere in my life.
School must-have: My wallet.

Clothes and accessories: model's own



PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

The class clown

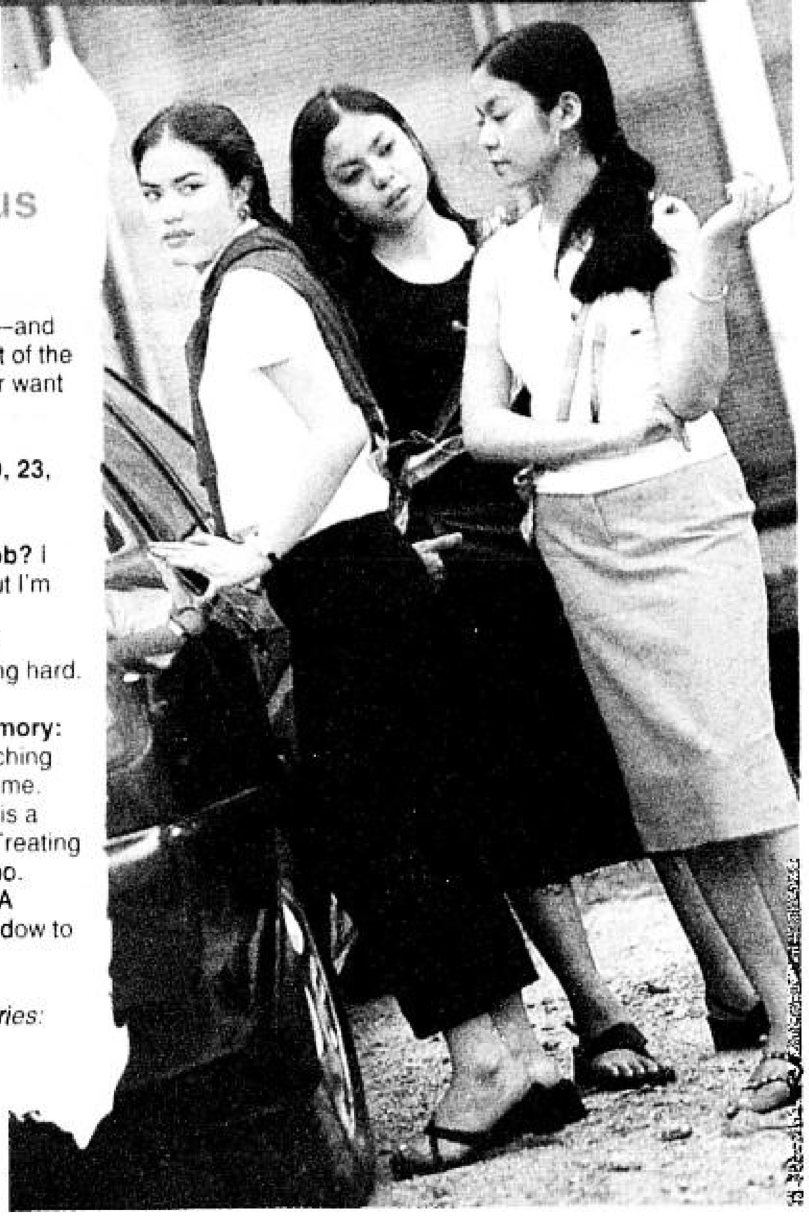
Disrupting the class with his pranks and loud guffaws is an everyday thing for this guy. He likes making people smile to the point of being annoying.

DOMINIC OCHOA, UST, BS Business Administration

Are you really a class clown? No. *Mahirap nga 'to* (the shoot) *kasi hindi ko ginagawa nung bata ako.* I was a good boy. I started being *sira* when I got to college.
Fave school memory: When 40 of us [in high school] went to Puerto Azul—Colegio de San Agustin—*nahuli kami* because we cut class. We all got suspended. *Nasunog pa 'yung* arm *ko* because I opened the radiator cap of my car.
School must-have: Tissue paper and cologne. I liked going to the bathroom *palagi.*

(Catch Dominic on "MTB" and his upcoming movie, "Wedding Photographer.")

Clothes and accessories: model's own



The obnoxious snob

She's rich and pretty—and she knows it. The rest of the girls either hate her or want to be her.

OLIVIA FRANCISCO, 23, UE, Dentistry

Are you really a snob? I may look snobbish but I'm not. Really!
What are you like in school? I like laughing hard. I'm really *mababaw.*
Favorite school memory: Cheap thrills like watching movies during breaktime. Having nothing to do is a luxury in my school. Treating patients is exciting, too.
School must-have: A phone. That's my window to the world outside.

Clothes and accessories: model's own

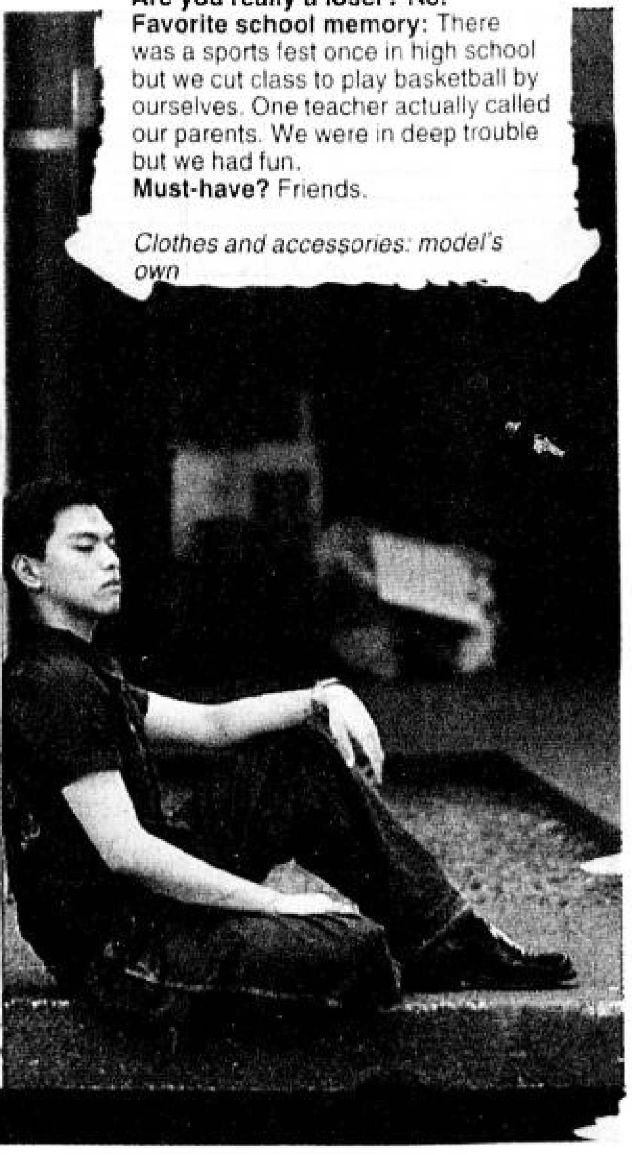
The loser

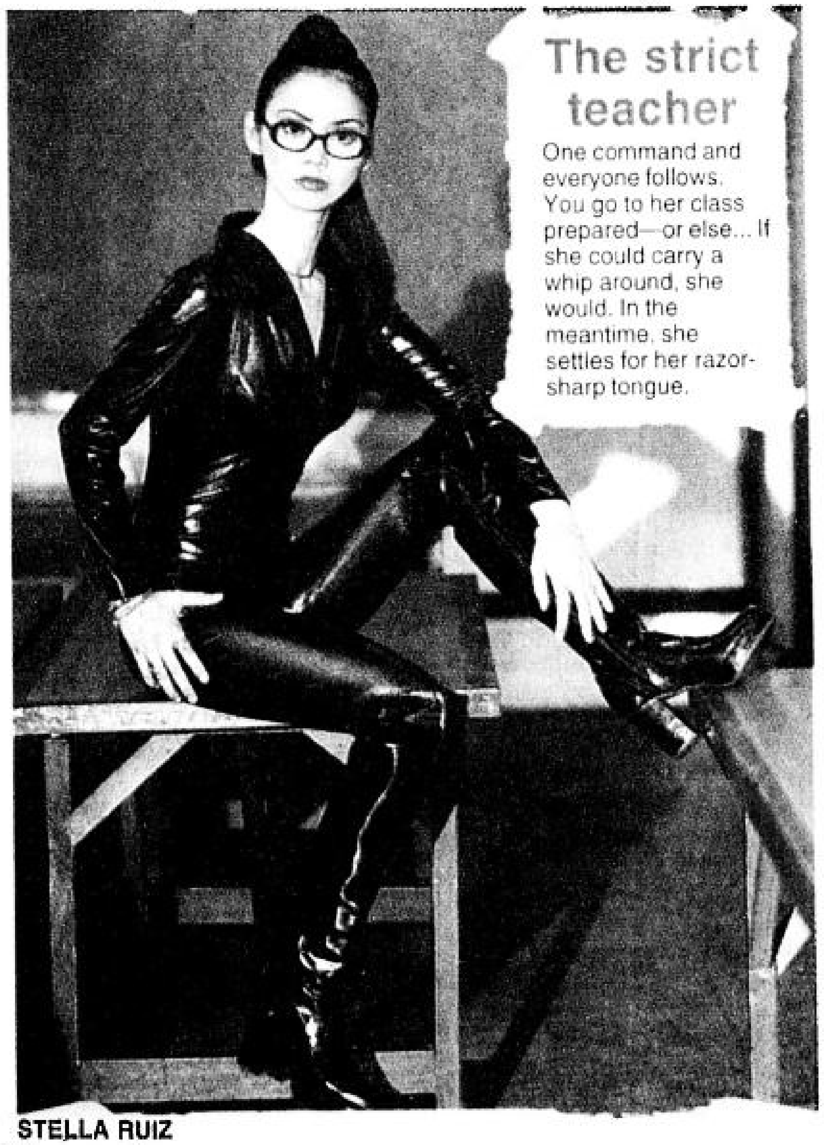
He is the bully's favorite toy. He is pushed around and picked on constantly. He is called many names—geek, nerd, freak, and the list goes on and on. Watch out, though. He may later emerge a millionaire.

JAMIESON "JIM" OBIAS, UA&P, IT

Are you really a loser? No.
Favorite school memory: There was a sports fest once in high school but we cut class to play basketball by ourselves. One teacher actually called our parents. We were in deep trouble but we had fun.
Must-have? Friends.

Clothes and accessories: model's own





The strict teacher

One command and everyone follows. You go to her class prepared—or else... If she could carry a whip around, she would. In the meantime, she settles for her razor-sharp tongue.

STELLA RUIZ

What were you like in school? I'm known for not going to class. I go there just to be seen. But my best friend since kinder was *masipag* so *nahahawa ako.*
Favorite school memory: Playing hooky.
School must-have: Hair spray. *Kahit ma*-late *sa* class *basta maayos 'yung buhok namin.* And a big mirror.

(Catch Stella in the last stop of her bar tour on May 31 at Ratsky's, Malate.)

Clothes and accessories: model's own. Catsuit by Nono Palmos

The fairest of them all

He is the class diva. He knows what he wants and society's norms won't stop him. He is the life of the class, everyone's favorite *ate* and the resident fashion police.

MEDEL LOUISE PABILLANO, 21, CEU, Psychology

What were you like in school? I kept myself up to date in terms of style. As much as possible, I changed my looks, from clothes to hairstyle, so that I could express my individuality. One must never be average.
Favorite school memory: My friends and I were really into friendly competitions. From tests to sports, it was important that we always ended up on top. When one of us ended up being the loser, he became the "slave" for the day. Now, that was fun.
School must-have: Cell phone, Palm Pilot, makeup kit.

Clothes and accessories: model's own

Answers to under-eye circles and puffy eyes

CAUCASIANS and mestizas usually worry about dark under-eye circles while most Filipinas, especially those with Chinese, Japanese or Korean ancestry, are troubled by puffy eyes.

Generally, dark circles are easier to camouflage because all one needs is the color concealer. Puffy eyes are a bit trickier. Feeble attempts will sometimes emphasize the problem. Thank goodness the competitive cosmetics industry has come up with helpful products for these eye dilemmas. The downside to having such problems is being confused as to what product one needs exactly. Below are different cosmetics with varying textures that explains what each is for.

MAKE OVER 911

Kinny Salas

- Eye creams—the most classic of formulas, e.g. L'Oreal Plentitude Revitalift, Odelys Perfect Eye Control Care, Estée Lauder Resilience Eye Creme. How it works: Contains emollients and other ingredients that soften and smoothen skin, diffusing pigments may lighten dark areas. Regular daily applications may give your eyes long-term benefits. Recommended for: Dark circles and those with fine lines and dehydrated skin. These will help concealer blend more easily. Application trick: Spritz skin with warm water first to maximize moisturizing benefits. Massage cream gently to boost circulation.

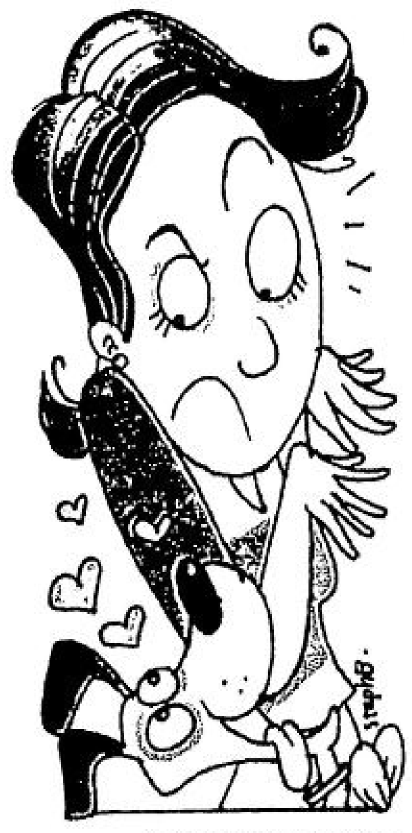


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

- Eye masks—Clarins' skin smoothing eye mask, Lancôme Bienfat Yeux. How it works: Delivers high concentrations of soothing, toning and hydrating elements in 5-15 minutes. Cooling effect of gel mask reduces swelling temporarily.

- Under eye problems—Circles and puffy eyes, especially those from hangover and fatigue. Gels also prevent itchiness and redness. Application: Close eyes, lie still as soothing effect of product will decrease with excessive movement.

- Eye gels—Elizabeth Arden Good Morning Eye, Biotherm Bioregard, Eye Saver, Pond's Eye Capsules. How it works: Cools and tones with high water content and ingredients like cucumber. Light-reflecting particles (from mallow, cornflower) give subtle whitening effect. Those with antioxidants (free radical fighters) may give long-term benefits. Best for puffiness. May tone down itchiness and ruddy skin texture. Application: Refrigerate to optimize cooling and toning effect. Apply generously before bedtime for extra hydration.

- Liquid a.k.a. serum—Repechange Opti Lift, Decleor serum. How it works: Forms film over the skin, tightening and lifting. Some experts say the fluid consistently promotes penetration of ingredients. Look for products that are rich in protein and antioxidants to prevent wrinkles.

- Cream for circles and puffy eyes. Highly recommended for mature sagging skin for this provides nourishing ingredients as well as firming benefits. Application: Smooth a little amount on skin with finger, forming a thin, even layer.

- Trial tip: Use the ring finger of the inactive hand to apply these eye products. Application in these areas can be extra fragile and can overstretch and sag at the slightest pressure. Pat product on instead of drawing it on or in cases with puffy eyes, press onto swollen area.

For any questions, or products you want to road-test, write to Makeover 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax at 897-4805

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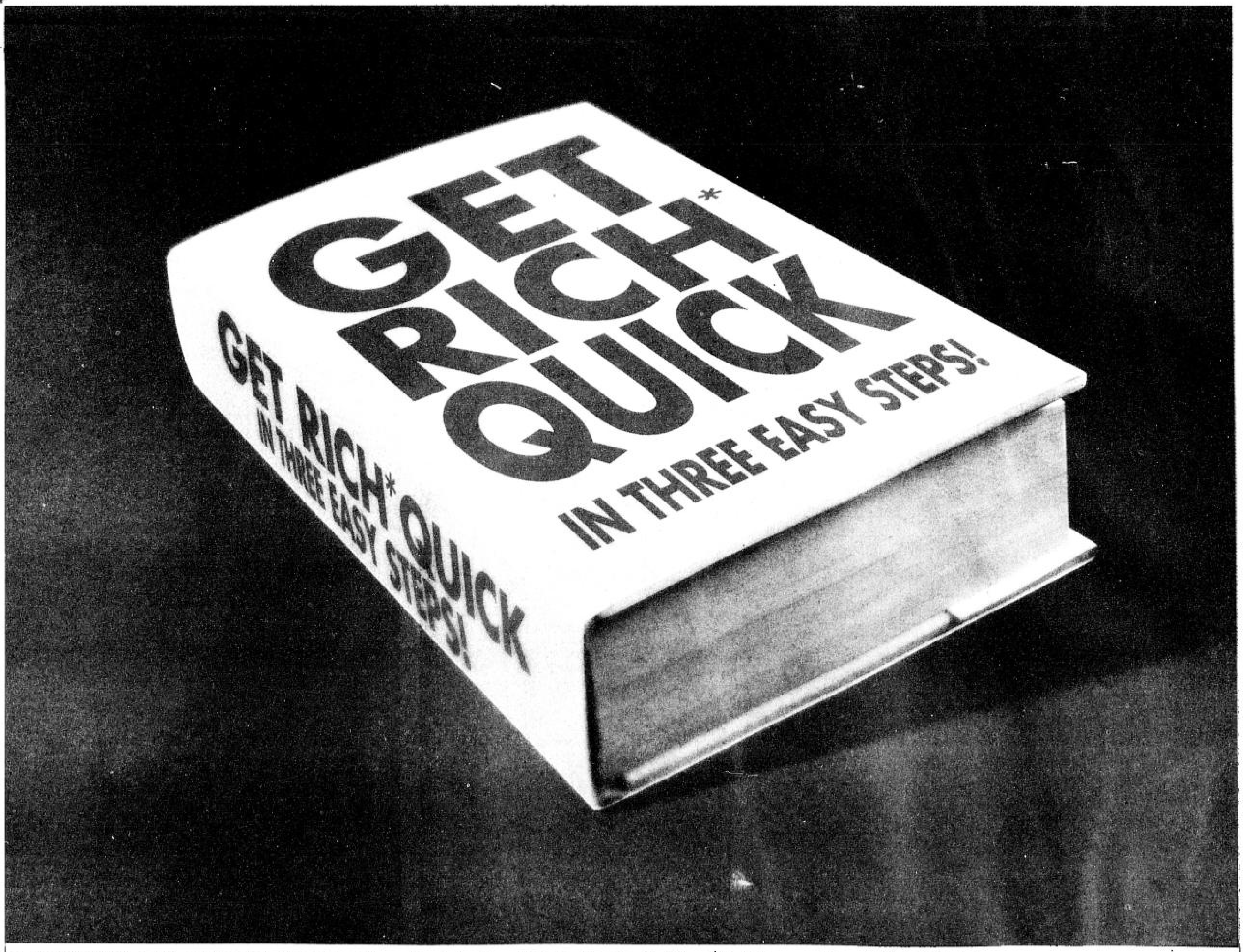
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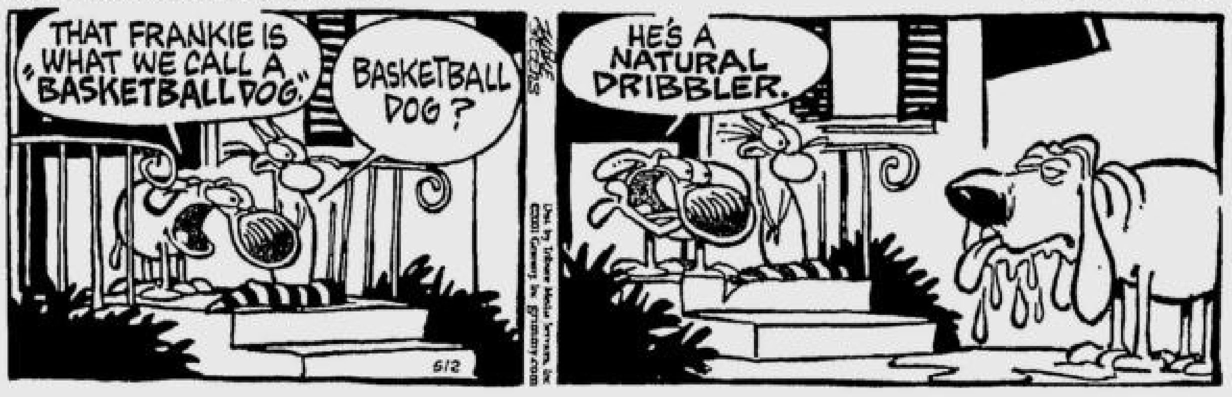
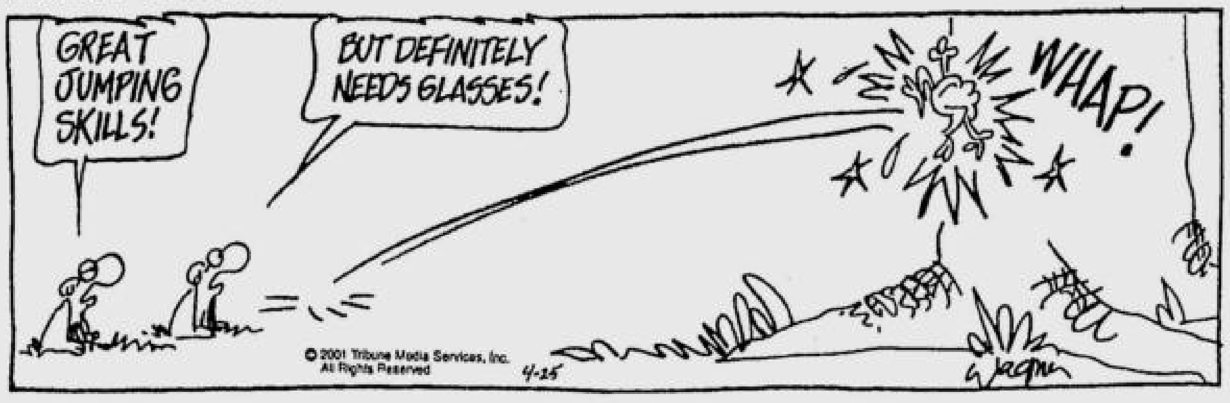
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


THAT FRANKIE IS WHAT WE CALL A "BASKETBALL DOG."
BASKETBALL DOG?
HE'S A NATURAL DRIBBLER.
6/2

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


GREAT JUMPING SKILLS!
BUT DEFINITELY NEEDS GLASSES!
WHAP!
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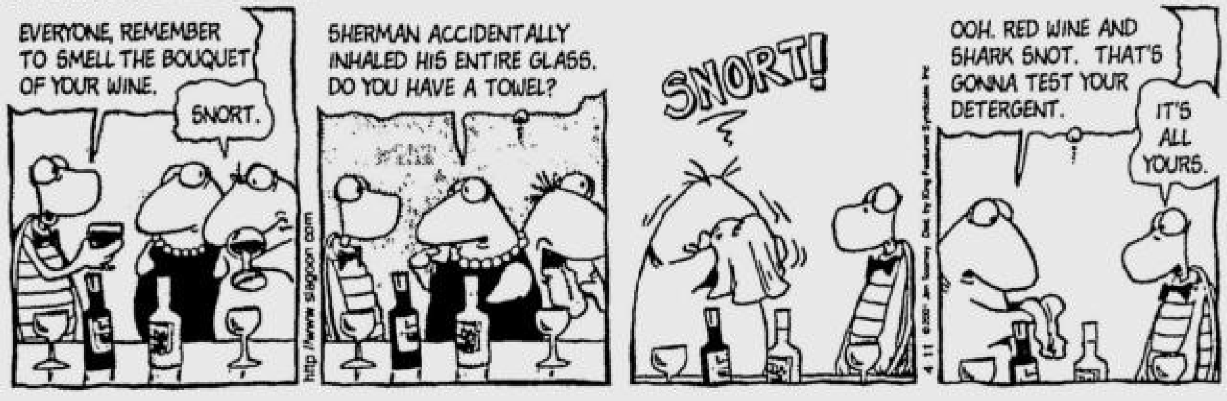
4-25

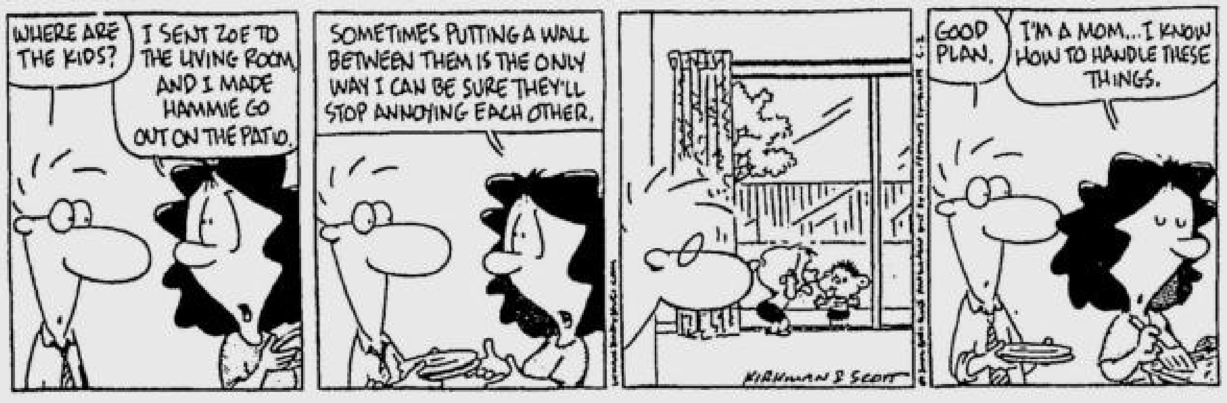
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


EVERYONE, REMEMBER TO SMELL THE BOUQUET OF YOUR WINE.
SNORT.
http://www.slagoon.com
SHERMAN ACCIDENTALLY INHALED HIS ENTIRE GLASS. DO YOU HAVE A TOWEL?
SNORT!
OOH. RED WINE AND SHARK SNOT. THAT'S GONNA TEST YOUR DETERGENT.
IT'S ALL YOURS.

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHERE ARE THE KIDS?
I SENT ZOE TO THE LIVING ROOM, AND I MADE HAMMIE GO OUT ON THE PATIO.
SOMETIMES PUTTING A WALL BETWEEN THEM IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN BE SURE THEY'LL STOP ANNOYING EACH OTHER.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
GOOD PLAN.
I'M A MOM... I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THESE THINGS.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mel Blanc, Benny Goodman, Wynonna Judd, Christine Jorgensen, Meredith MacRae

Happy Birthday: You won't want to sit still for long this year. Regenerate and prepare to take on the world. You will lean toward adventure and will want to involve yourself in the most unusual projects. You may be a little off-center but that personality trait will draw others into your corner. Your numbers: 2, 18, 27, 31, 44, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let someone you work with put words in your mouth. You will have to be careful not to fall into traps set by jealous peers. Socially you need to get out and do something energetic.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Programs for self-improvement through exercise, or other physical exertion will show remarkable results. Your open, honest approach toward others will be well-received.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Property purchases or renovations will be valuable in the long run. Making your home a place of comfort and upgrading your entertainment center could make a big difference to loved ones.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): New relationships will develop if you get out and do things with others. You will be able to help someone with his or her problems if you relate some of your past experiences.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your generosity will get the better of you. Put a little cash away for a rainy day. You can expect to have problems with children if you don't take the time to understand their concerns.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Travel will be in your best interests. You will make contact with new friends who will provide a multitude of exciting ideas and options.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Changes in your home will be favorable if you cut your costs by doing some of the work yourself. Your creativity will help you achieve a comfortable yet elegant setting.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pleasure trips will be worth your while. You will win points with your lover if you take him or her with you. Passion will lead to a secure relationship.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Larger quarters are in order. Greater activity and positive changes are taking place in your home. You will have to bend to receive help from those you live with.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be emotional and quick to judge if you've become involved in a bad financial deal. You need an outlet for your anxiety. Creative projects will take your mind off your worries.

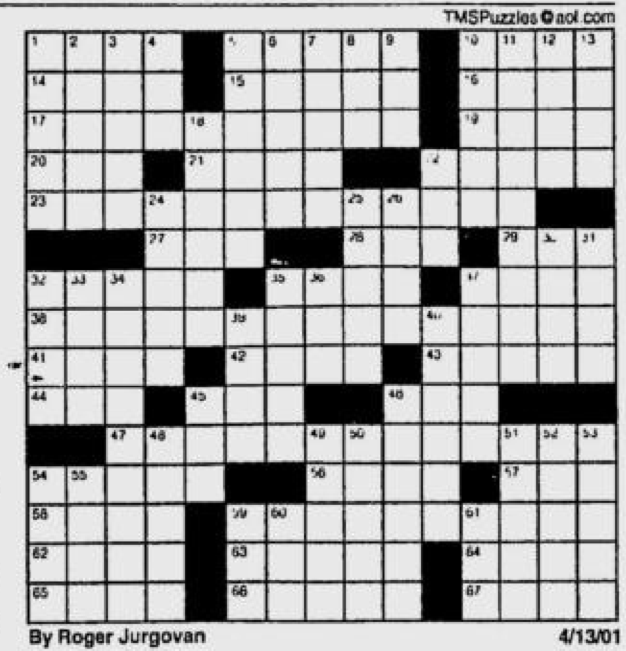
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Property investments or additions to your home will be prosperous. Work behind the scenes to develop an idea that's been on your mind for some time now.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your emotional partner may be playing games with you. Don't be too concerned. Everything will work out fine if you do your own thing.

Birthday Baby: You are clever, but it is essential that you get the proper education to be able to follow your dreams. You are fidgety, quick to respond and easily bored.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

4/13/01

ACROSS

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5 Overflow
10 Bedazzles
14 Desperate
15 Ancient Greek colony
16 Play part
17 Rejected
19 Temper tantrum
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22 Soft drinks
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28 Remunerate
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35 "Nana" star Anna
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43 Abrogates
44 Booming jet's letters
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46 HHS agcy.
47 Thirteen
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56 Winglike
57 Solo of "Star Wars"
58 Saharan
59 Set of variables
62 Half a golf course
63 Goddess of peace
64 Major ending?
65 Some putouts
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67 James Dean movie, "__ of Eden"

DOWN

1 Developed completely
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12 Lamb's pen name
13 Theater backdrops
18 Beluga roe
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24 Huge
25 Overturn
26 Hourglass fill
30 Sea east of the Caspian
31 Rep., Sen., Gov., etc.
32 Webber hit
33 Burden
34 Chatting playfully
35 Struck powerfully
36 Skater Babilonia
37 Blue-green shades
39 Tel __-Jaffa
40 Last
45 Favorite
46 Sweethearts
48 Fills the hold
49 Nostrils
50 Carpentry tool
51 Greek letter
52 Flaws
53 Beginning
54 Is unable
55 Operatic melody
59 Bakery purchase
60 Coach Parseghian
61 Golf gadget

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

R	E	A	M	S	■	S	E	E	P	■	F	L	U	B
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S	O	A	R	S	■	■	■	F	E	W	■	■	■	■
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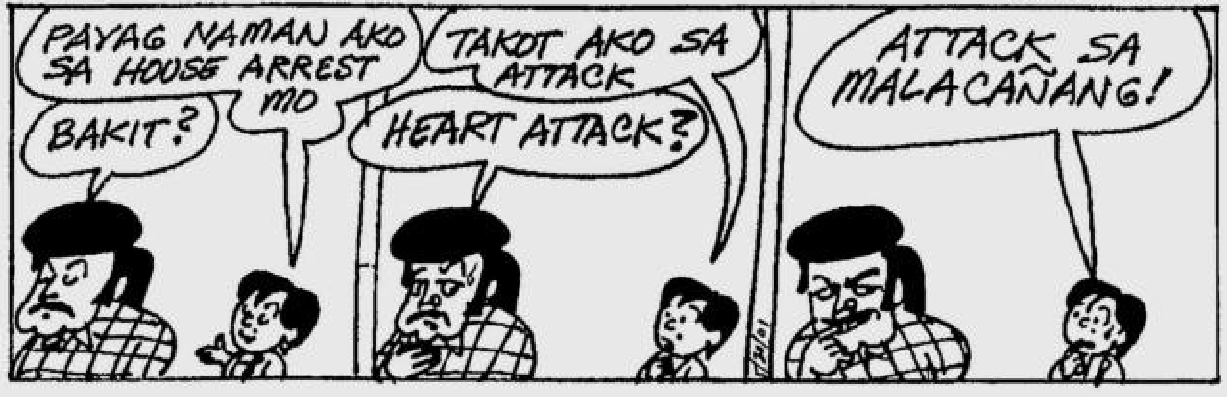
4/13/01

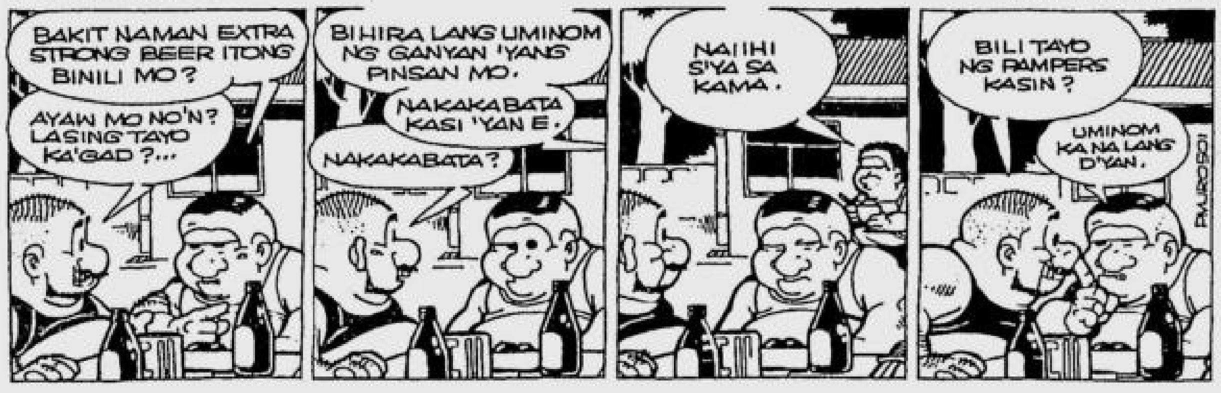
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PAYAG NAMAN AKO SA HOUSE ARREST MO
BAKIT?
TAKOT AKO SA ATTACK
HEART ATTACK?
ATTACK SA MALACAÑANG!

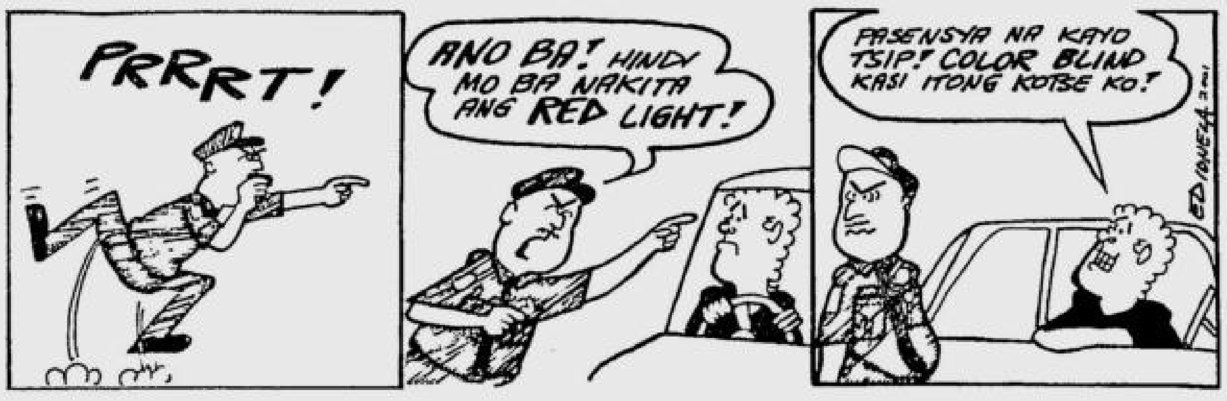
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BAKIT NAMAN EXTRA STRONG BEER ITONG BINILI MO?
AYAW MO NO'N? LASING TAYO KA'GAD?...
BIHIRA LANG UMINOM NG GANYAN 'YANG PINSAN MO.
NAKAKABATA KASI 'YAN E.
NAKAKABATA?
NAIIHI S'YA SA KAMA.
BILI TAYO NG PAMPERS KASIN?
UMINOM KA NA LANG D'YAN.
PMJR0501

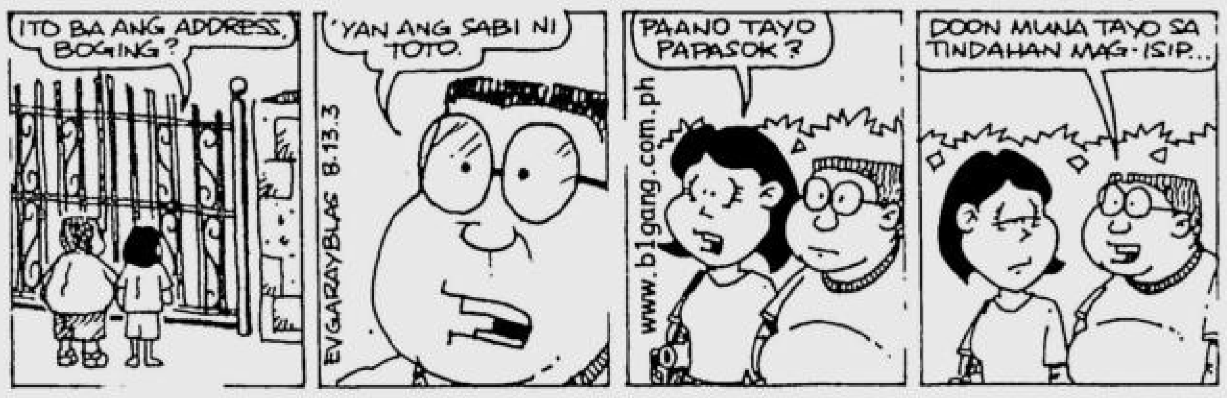
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PRRRT!
ANO BA! HINDI MO BA NAKITA ANG RED LIGHT!
PASENSYA NA KAYO TSIP! COLOR BLIND KASI ITONG KOTSE KO!
EDIONELA

B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


ITO BA ANG ADDRESS, BOGING?
'YAN ANG SABI NI TOTO.
EVGARAYBLAS 8.13.3
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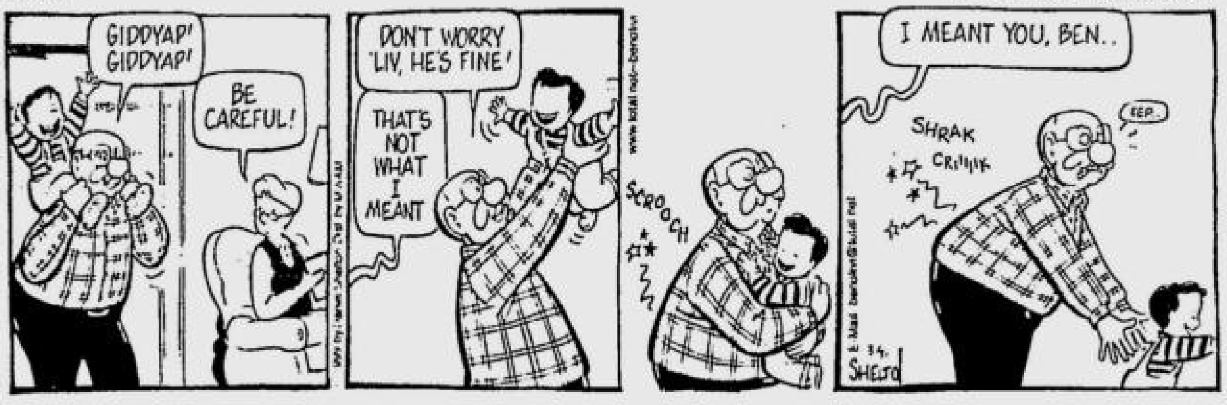
DOON MUNA TAYO SA TINDAHAN MAG-ISIP...

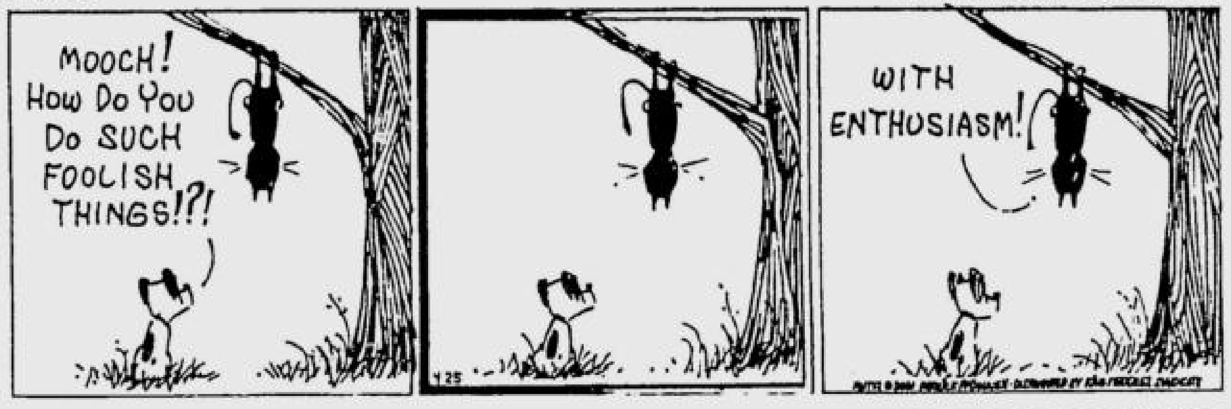
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


GIDDYAP! GIDDYAP!
BE CAREFUL!
DON'T WORRY 'LIV, HE'S FINE!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT
SCROOCH
I MEANT YOU, BEN..
SHRAK
CRIIIIK
EEP.
SHELTON

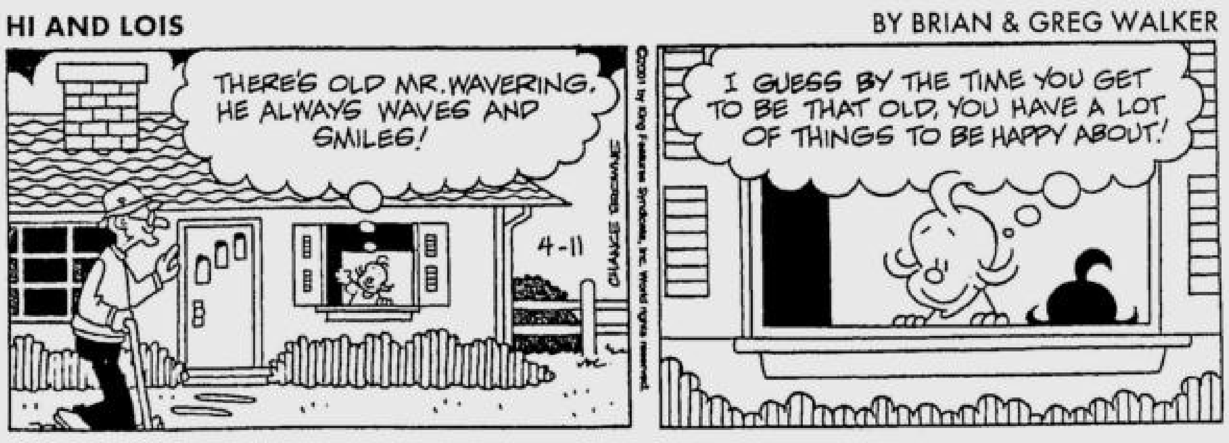
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MOOCH! HOW DO YOU DO SUCH FOOLISH THINGS!?!
4-25
WITH ENTHUSIASM!

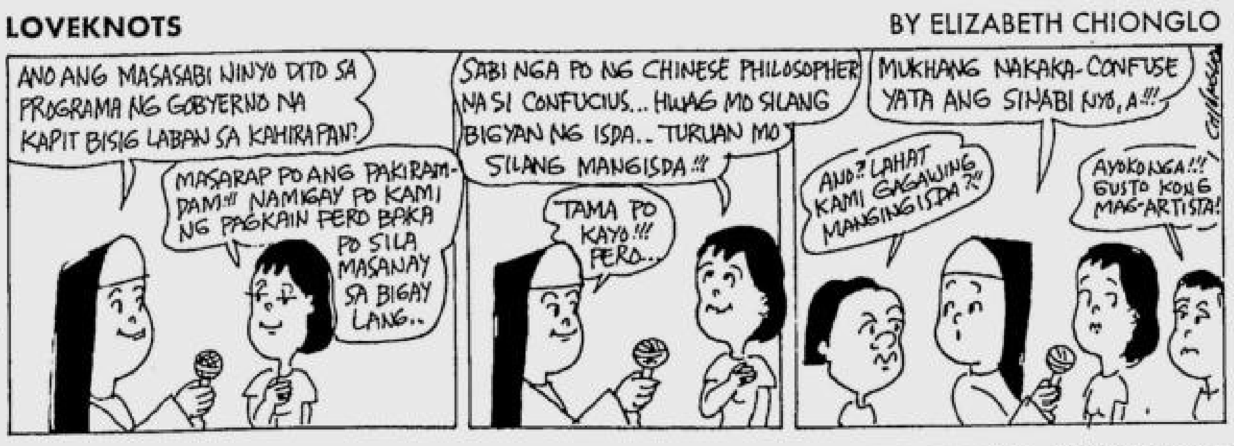
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


THERE'S OLD MR. WAVERING. HE ALWAYS WAVES AND SMILES!
4-11
CHANCE BROWNE
I GUESS BY THE TIME YOU GET TO BE THAT OLD, YOU HAVE A LOT OF THINGS TO BE HAPPY ABOUT!

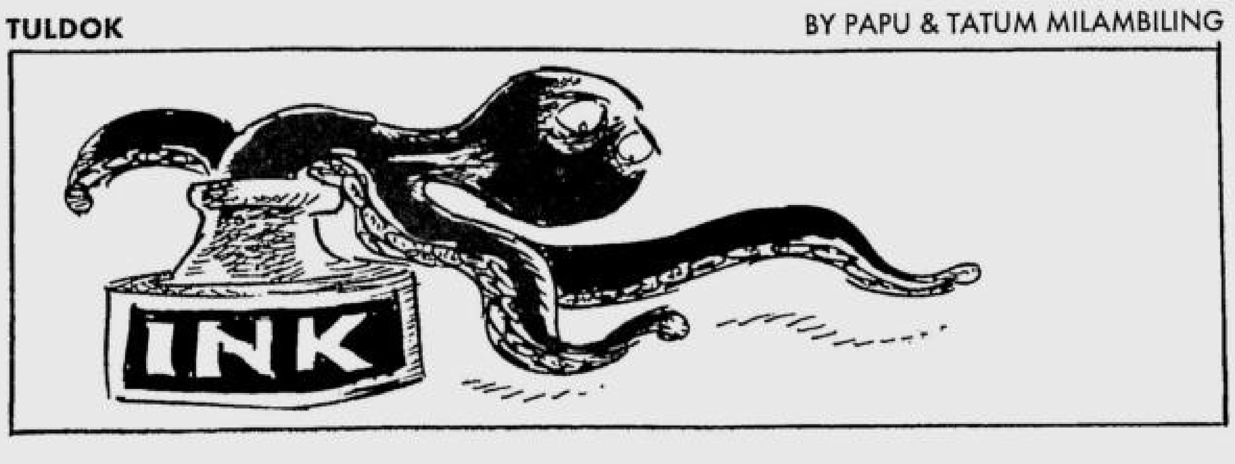
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANO ANG MASASABI NINYO DITO SA PROGRAMA NG GOBYERNO NA KAPIT BISIG LABAN SA KAHIRAPAN?
MASARAP PO ANG PAKIRAMDAM!!! NAMIGAY PO KAMI NG PAGKAIN PERO BAKA PO SILA MASANAY SA BIGAY LANG..
SABI NGA PO NG CHINESE PHILOSOPHER NA SI CONFUCIUS... HWAG MO SILANG BIGYAN NG ISDA.. TURUAN MO SILANG MANGISDA!!!
TAMA PO KAYO!!! PERO...
MUKHANG NAKAKA-CONFUSE YATA ANG SINABI NYO, A!!!
AND? LAHAT KAMI GAGAWING MANGINGISDA?!!
AYOKO NGA!!! GUSTO KONG MAG-ARTISTA!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



Battlefield college

(From page D3)

no escaping them. They usually attack when you're alone, so stick with your friends.

A block section will include a group of nerds, a pack of computer gamers, a heartthrob, a group of heartthrob's fans trying to get his/her attention, and a "popular" group. Some guys would still act as if they're in high school.

Befriend the nerds, you'll need their help in homeworks and when negotiating with professors.

At one point a person or two from a group of friends you befriended during the orientation would hate you, and the reason would remain a mystery. Leave the group but stay in touch with those who wouldn't hate you, join another group where people would accept who you are and not what they want you to be.

Be safe than sorry

If you think you can't handle your current academic load, ask the registrar about taking the minimum load.

The important subjects are usually the most boring ones. It's very tempting to cut those classes but resist or you'll miss chapters worth of lectures and would have a hard time understanding future lessons.

Professors would call you if you don't know the answer to his/her question, and ignore you if you know. So read up in advance, it's better to be safe than sorry.

The easy subjects are usually found in Liberal Arts. They only require you to write a bunch of essays and you don't even have final exams. Even the easiest subject requires work, so if you only passed an essay out of 10, don't even think of negotiating your grade, you're not going to pass.

Project and thesis deadlines are usually given a week before the final exams. It's officially the stress season for students, a major stress at that. For those who doesn't manage their time well, this would mean weeks of sleepless nights. A trip to a nice beach afterward or frequent trips to the mall is a must to cure stress.

During thesis season, bring extra batteries for your laptop because there wouldn't be a place in any study hall to plug it in.

Your grades can be negotiated, before the final grade is released, of course. Usually, professors would adjust the grades on essays and projects or give bonus for good conduct and perfect attendance. You can also ask for special projects if you missed a test or if you're in danger of failing the subject. Ask for a redefense if you feel that your thesis defense isn't that convincing, although the professor will voluntarily give you options sometimes.

In the middle of the semester/term professors usually give out advisory grades. Don't worry if your advisory grades aren't that good, because professors don't include other factors such as projects or bonuses, but consider it as a warning on how you fared during the term.

Sometimes the grade in your course card/final grade isn't final. Demand for the figures on how the professor arrived at your grades, because sometimes they are miscalculated. If all else fails, look for a "connection" and pay to pass the course.

Meeting requirements

Bring all sizes of index cards, 2X2" and 1X1" ID pictures on your first day. It'll lessen the hassle of completing the requirements.

Scientific calculators are a must. Not only are they useful in math tests, they can also be used to calculate your share when you go on a Dutch treat, convert currency, etc.

Failing a subject is normal, but as much as possible don't. It'll delay your graduation. At least, pass the prerequisites.

Class participation is the only way to get your professor's attention. This statement is becoming a cliché.

If you don't have the guts to do that or the professor ignores you, you can talk to him after the session or schedule for a consultation.

Don't be intimidated by professors. Sometimes they act "*masungit*" so students would behave. And more often than not the most "*masungit*" professors are the best in teaching and accommodating students.

Mobile phone is the ultimate means of communication. You can call your parents to tell them that you're going home late because you have to finish a project, call your "*sundo*," contact your professor for questions on the lesson or projects or explain why you'll be late or absent from his class, contact the org heads for assignments, contact groupmates to schedule a brainstorming, give out project assignments and summon them to do the project.

If you don't like the professor and majority of the class agrees, request for a change of professor. Ask the student council or registrar for such procedures. I had a professor who had a bad grammar and ironically she's a writing professor. She only gave 2.0 (highest is 4.0) as the highest grade for all the sections she handled. It was the first term of our freshmen year. The class only knew about changing professors during the second term. You're lucky you're reading this.

You don't have to buy the books required for the subject. You can rely on lectures (the books will only have a few added facts), have the chapters photocopied, or buy secondhand books. College books can be very expensive than high school books.

College is not a quest for popularity. With the academic load you have, you'll forget about popularity.

College students usually experience sleep pressure. You'd stay up all night to study, finish your homework and projects in time for the deadline. Then party to celebrate the project's success (that's two nights' worth of sleep). Add to this peer pressure.

College isn't about the things you learn inside a classroom. It's balancing academic, spiritual, family and social life. Only your academic life will need more attention. Balancing such factors is up to you. Armed with the right stuff, surviving college wouldn't be that hard, but it's not going to be easy either. Just study hard and then party.

Join the urban jungle battle of wits and skills

ARE you willing to take the Urban Jungle Adventure challenge? PinoyCentral and San Mig Light invite you to join this battle of strength, skills, wits and will power. Be part of this first-of-its-kind race in the country on June 1 and 2. No need to go out of town. All action will revolve around the city which is a jungle on its own accord. Be prepared to trek, bike, repel, swim, run, climb in the most challenging course designed around Metro Manila. Be on your toes as your team solves problems under constant pressure ranging from sleep deprivation and exposure to the scorching heat of the sun or even rain.

The race is divided into two categories—the Elite and Fun category. Each team must be composed of four members and two support members. The Elite Category, which runs for the duration of 18-24 hours, is advisable for those belonging to adventure teams or outdoor clubs. The Fun category are for those who want to take the challenge but want it to be half the stress. The Fun race takes around six to eight hours to accomplish. For those who are daunted by the challenge but still want to try it out, one could join the Adventure Training Camp at the PowerPlant of Rockwell where one could get free trials and lessons from the adventure sports experts. All participants are encouraged to attend the Orientation and Kick-off Party tonight at 8 at the Grilla Bar, Libis, QC. The party will also feature three of the country's hottest bands: Passage, Parliament Syndicate, Third World Project.

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Daredevils in 'Philips X-Rage' wow audiences

HUNDREDS of Pinoy X-Gamers flocked to The Fort Summer Camp, Bonifacio Global City for "Philips X-Rage," the most explosive X-Games festival this side of Asia. Organized by Philips Consumer Electronics, one of the world's leading consumer electronics companies, "Philips X-Rage" is a three-day action-packed weekend full of high-flying action from top pros in the field as well as exciting competitions in BMX riding, skateboarding and in-line skating.

Pinoy extreme games enthusiasts proved themselves a talented and skillful bunch. Taking to the ramps for the competitions, these young X-Gamers displayed daring stunts and tricks to the delight of the huge crowd who came to watch the event. Of the hundreds of BMX riders, in-liners and skateboarders who qualified to compete in the event, nine of the best were chosen to represent the country in the regional finals of "Philips X-Rage," which will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The top placers for the three categories were: Carlo Gaya (first place, In-line Skating Beginners), Benjie Estanislao (first place, In-line Skating Advanced), Rowell Yangco (second place, In-line Skating Advanced), John Sulit (first place, Skateboarding Beginners), Ansey Flores (first place, Skateboarding Advanced), Pedro Santos (second place, Skateboarding Advanced), Reynaldo Cabides (first place, BMX Beginners), Mark Schultz (first place, BMX Advanced) and Jorge Baquir (second place, BMX Advanced).

Aside from getting the chance to represent the country in Indonesia, the winners also received various prizes from Philips as well as the event's other cosponsors. The winners of "Philips X-Rage" Manila will also have a chance to get extensive training in their game of choice. If they win in Indonesia, these promising athletes will be sent to Woodward Camp, the ultimate destination for any extreme sports enthusiasts. Located in Central Pennsylvania, USA, the camp is the largest extreme sports complex and serves as the training area for many top pros and Olympic medallists in the fields of freestyle biking, skateboarding, in-line skating and gymnastics.

On top of the exciting competitions, the audiences were treated to exciting demos from the world's top extreme sports athletes who flew in to the country especially for the event. World pro-BMX riders Joshua and JD Heino, in-liners Tyler Shields and Zacky "Webber" Murphy and skateboarding greats Michael Peterson and Willy Santos performed demos of amazing tricks and stunts that made them famous around the globe.

Pinoy X-Games enthusiasts were thrilled to see their idols in the flesh. BMXers had a blast watching brothers Joshua and JD Heino as they flew around the course with their bikes in tow. From Long Beach, California, the Heino brothers have been making waves in many international competitions: Joshua was Street Champion 2000 during the La Revolution Series, while JD was Impact Skate Park's Champion for 2000.

In-liners also got to meet pros Shields and Murphy up close and personal. Besides signing autographs for their many fans, these top in-liners showed the many tricks and stunts that local kids dreamed of being able to achieve. Both in-liners have swept the X-Games world by storm with their enormous talent. Among Tyler's many achievements is placing second during the HOE Down 2000. Zack, who's been skating for 11 years now, also has an impressive record, including a second place win in NISS Amsterdam in 1997.

Local skateboarders went wild over the awesome stunts performed by Peterson and the Philippines' very own Santos. Peterson's talent has attracted a number of big-name sponsors, such as Illenium Skateboards and Volcom Clothing. On the other hand, Santos has an impressive array of records that made him the darling of the crowd. He has consistently placed in the top 10 of all X-Games and just bagged second place B3 in Louisville, Kentucky 2000.

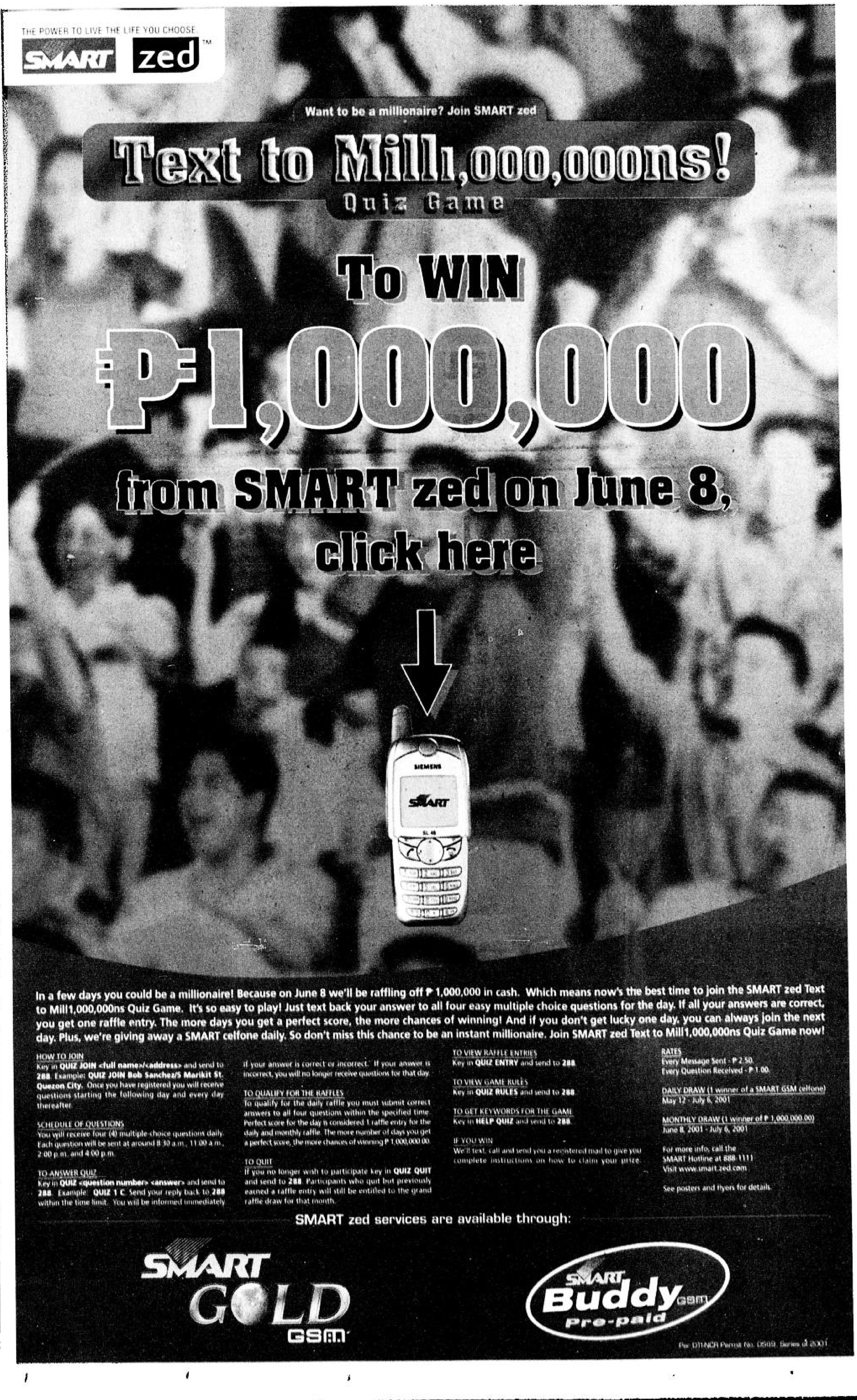
The crowd definitely had their fill of extreme action from these world pros, but the fun didn't stop there. They were also treated to extreme music entertainment from the country's rock bands. Greyhoundz, Cheese, Bad Burn, Skychurch, Sandwich, Chronic Down Syndrome, Six Digit and Itchy Worms provided slamming music as the crowd raged into the night.

CUBE
All expenses paid trip
TONY Lim, Philips Consumer Electronics general manager, and Mark Schultz, BMX Advanced first place winner

JOSHUA Heino

ZACK "Webber" Murphy

Cool, Huh?
PHILIPS
GENEVIEVE Legaspi, the only female participant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HOW TO JOIN
Key in **QUIZ JOIN <full name>/<address>** and send to **288**. Example: **QUIZ JOIN Bob Sanchez/5 Marikit St. Quezon City.** Once you have registered you will receive questions starting the following day and every day thereafter.

SCHEDULE OF QUESTIONS
You will receive four (4) multiple-choice questions daily. Each question will be sent at around 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

TO ANSWER QUIZ
Key in **QUIZ <question number> <answer>** and send to **288**. Example: **QUIZ 1 C**. Send your reply back to **288** within the time limit. You will be informed immediately if your answer is correct or incorrect. If your answer is incorrect, you will no longer receive questions for that day.

TO QUALIFY FOR THE RAFFLES
To qualify for the daily raffle you must submit correct answers to all four questions within the specified time. Perfect score for the day is considered 1 raffle entry for the daily and monthly raffle. The more number of days you get a perfect score, the more chances of winning ₱ 1,000,000.00.

TO QUIT
If you no longer wish to participate key in **QUIZ QUIT** and send to **288**. Participants who quit but previously earned a raffle entry will still be entitled to the grand raffle draw for that month.

TO VIEW RAFFLE ENTRIES
Key in **QUIZ ENTRY** and send to **288**.

TO VIEW GAME RULES
Key in **QUIZ RULES** and send to **288**.

TO GET KEYWORDS FOR THE GAME
Key in **HELP QUIZ** and send to **288**.

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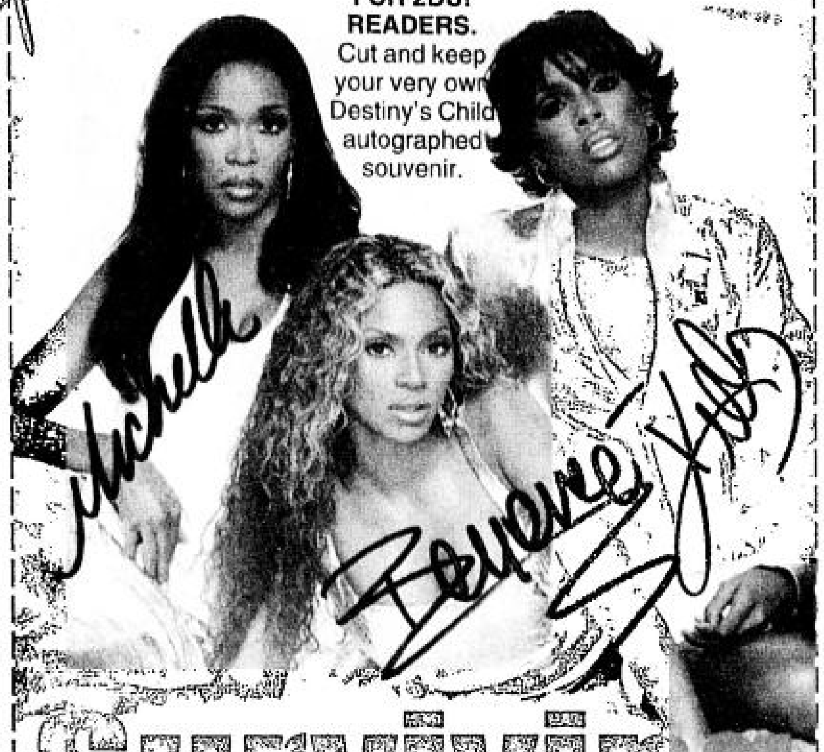
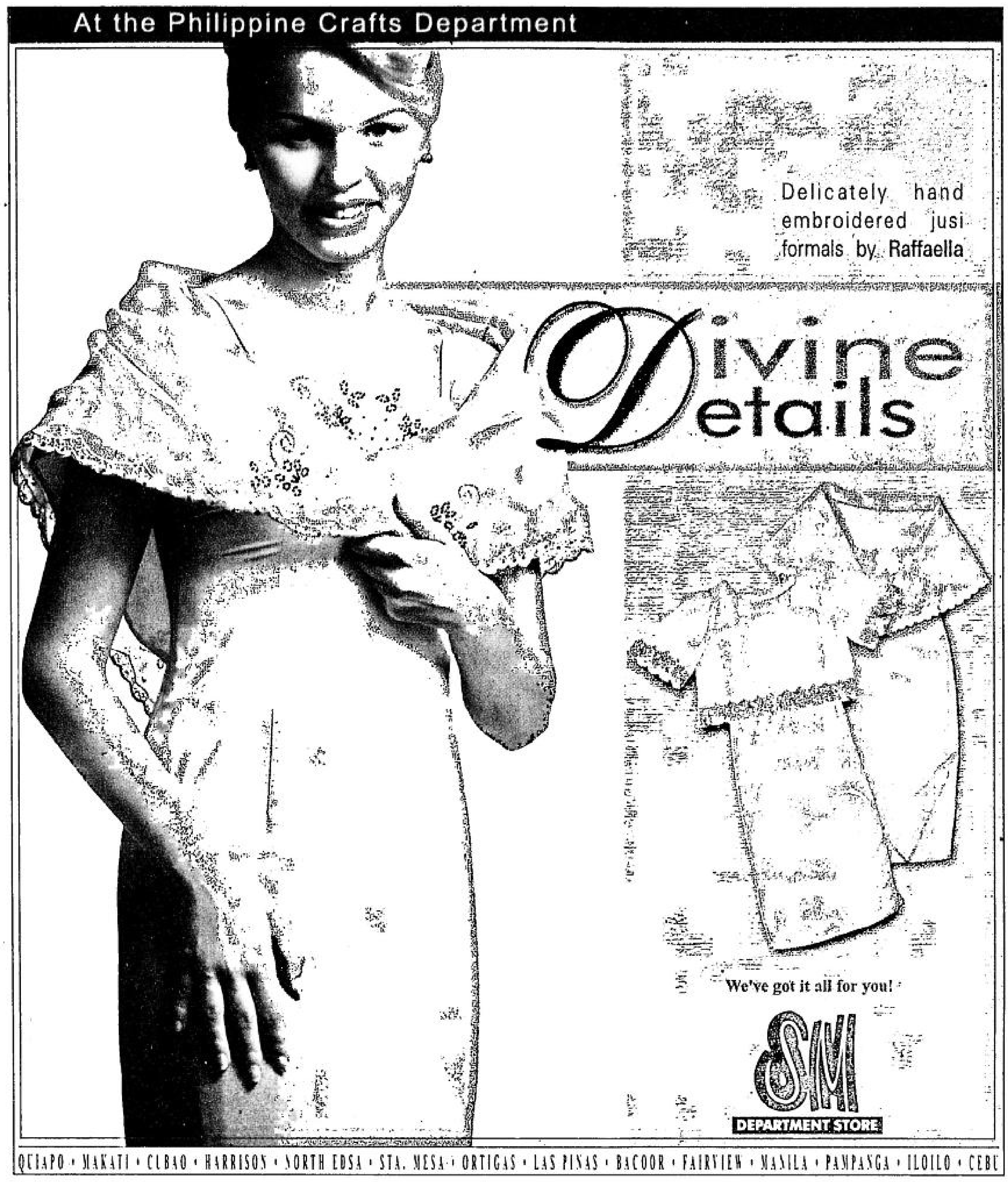


Surviving Destiny

Pop music's top female group talks about surviving in a guileless world rife with intrigue, hardship and low regard for female musicianship

(Story on page E2)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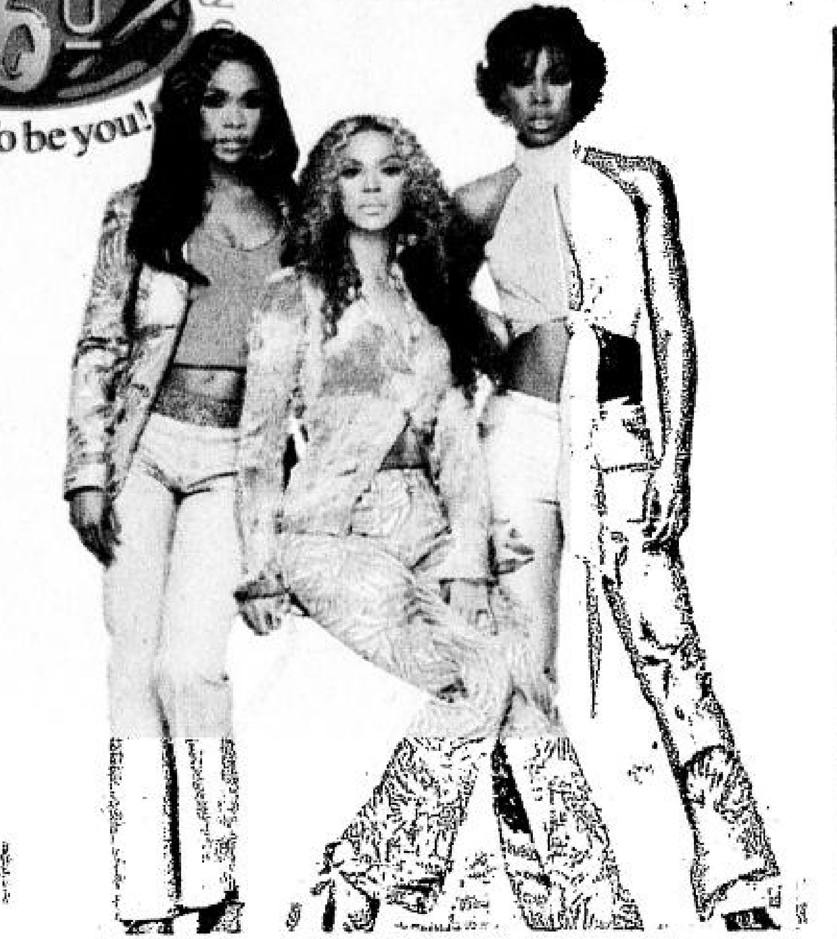

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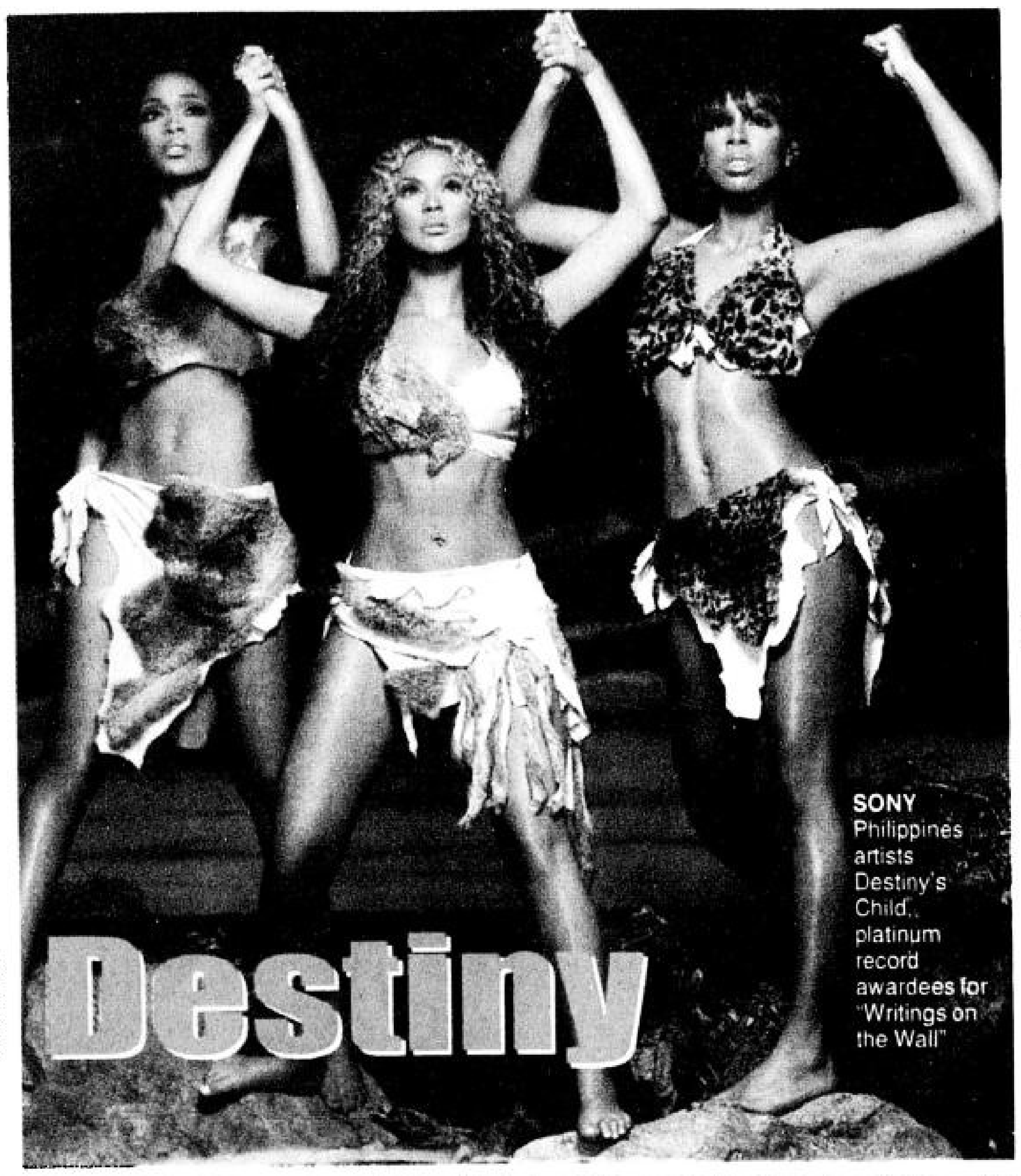


SONY Philippines artists Destiny's Child, platinum record awardees for "Writings on the Wall"

Surviving Destiny

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

OUR GENERATION'S The Supremes during the interview at the Laguna Phuket Resort

MOTHER slash stylist Tina Knowles with daughter Beyoncé

PHUKET, Thailand—"I am a survivor, I'm gonna make it. I'm a survivor, keep on surviving."

It all started when there was a joke on the radio from a DJ saying that Destiny's Child, purveyor of hits such as "Say My Name," "Jumpin'Jumpin," "Bills, Bills, Bills," among others, was just like the island survivor from the TV show, that it was going to get voted out.

Instead of getting pissed about it, they decided to turn it into a positive thing and named their album and single after what was once a mean prank. "Survivor" became No. 1, both the single and the album.

"Survivor reflects that exuberance—it pops with giddy energy and positive vibes," so says Rolling Stone contributing editor Jancee Dunn about the album.

Indeed, the album's title fits perfectly with the group, what with the barrage of obstacles—from belligerent ex-members, overbearing family members and manager, to intrigues about its main member's bid for solo stardom.

The album was written and co-produced by Beyoncé Knowles, which features all three singing lead in each song. They all agreed that "all the songs, after 'Survivor' are going to be about surviving something."

MY DATE WITH DESTINY. The author with Michelle Williams and Kelly Rowland over dinner at "Survivor Island" tent set up by Sony

Sony Entertainment's head honcho Wally Chamsay (who was there with his whole team for a Sony conference) informed me early on in the trip that Beyoncé (pronounced Bee-yon-say), the most popular among the trio, had a respiratory infection which led to her losing her voice. It was time for the other members Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams to shine, I thought to myself.

Intimidating

So, there I was, lounging around Room 184 of the Laguna Phuket Resort in Thailand along with journalists all over Asia who came to the island south of Bangkok to have a date with Destiny's Child.

Excitement filled the air, even as the pop chroniclers were getting anxious, since the world's best-selling female group was nowhere in sight 40 minutes after the appointed time.

Then, all of a sudden, three tall, dark casually clad glamazons in funky tops and jeans appeared before our eyes. One had a red bob, the other had it blondishly long and curly, and the last one had jet-black hair.

Seeing the Sony artists the first time felt like meeting an intimidatingly beautiful woman (times three at that!), but after a while, one realized and felt their warmth. They seemed very focused on their goals, they loved their work tremendously and had a great sense of style.

"So, who inspired your style?" I asked. "Our stylist is Tina Knowles (Beyoncé's mom) who thought of our imaging," answered Kelly. "But basically, our style is inspired by our own personality and our music. It's different and unique, sexy but classy. And fun! That's all of what Destiny's Child is."

When asked about the lawsuits filed by former members La Tavia Robertson and La Toya Luckett, they refused to go into details and just dismissed it, saying "That's all settled, all the legal stuff is done which feels really good." Not to mention this was all a good two years ago.

"I think that the whole member change was very much misunderstood about Destiny's Child. When you have an organization and some people don't have the same outlook, then it doesn't work and it starts to clash," added Kelly. "But there's a more positive Destiny's Child now, it's stronger, it's more of a support system this time, and we're sisters! We're survivors, Michelle, Beyoncé and Kelly."

Supportive

To this, Beyoncé smiled and gave the thumbs-up. Throughout the interview, she sent signals and exchanges cheerful and supportive glances to her co-members. The other two could finish her sentences. Indeed, they had that bond.

When asked about the romantic side of their lives, they answered that they are all single. "I think the fact that all of us, we display such strength that kind of intimidates men," Michelle quipped. "We think it is very important for women to be strong, and we should not just take anything—we should always strive for excellence."

"So what are the qualities they look for in a mate?" I inquired.

"They have to be single, successful, smart and successful. They have to smell good," answered Michelle.

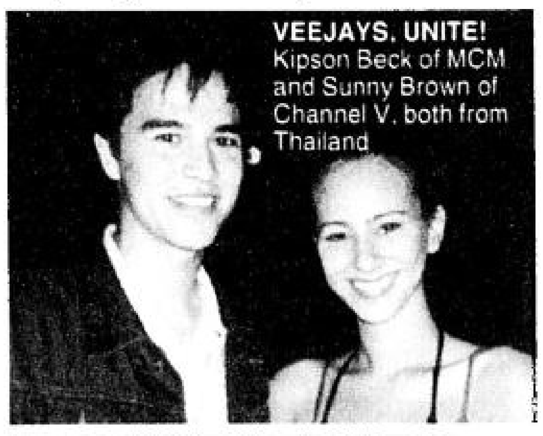
How about the rumors linking Eminem to Beyoncé? Kelly said, "It's funny how we can be sitting in a room right now with Eminem and a whole bunch of other people, but they will al-

SURVIVING/ p.E3

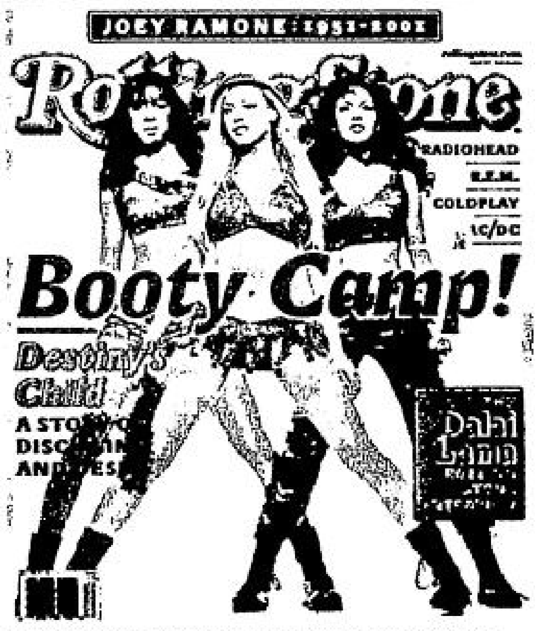
SONY Music big bosses Wally Chamsay and Richard Denekamp

BONDING. Tower Records' Vince Parr with MTV's Cristina Castillo

ROSLYN AMID THE THORNS. Sony PR Roslyn Reyes with new boy band MDO



VEEJAYS, UNITE! Kipson Beck of MCM and Sunny Brown of Channel V, both from Thailand



DESTINY'S Child Rolling Stone scintillating cover, May 2001

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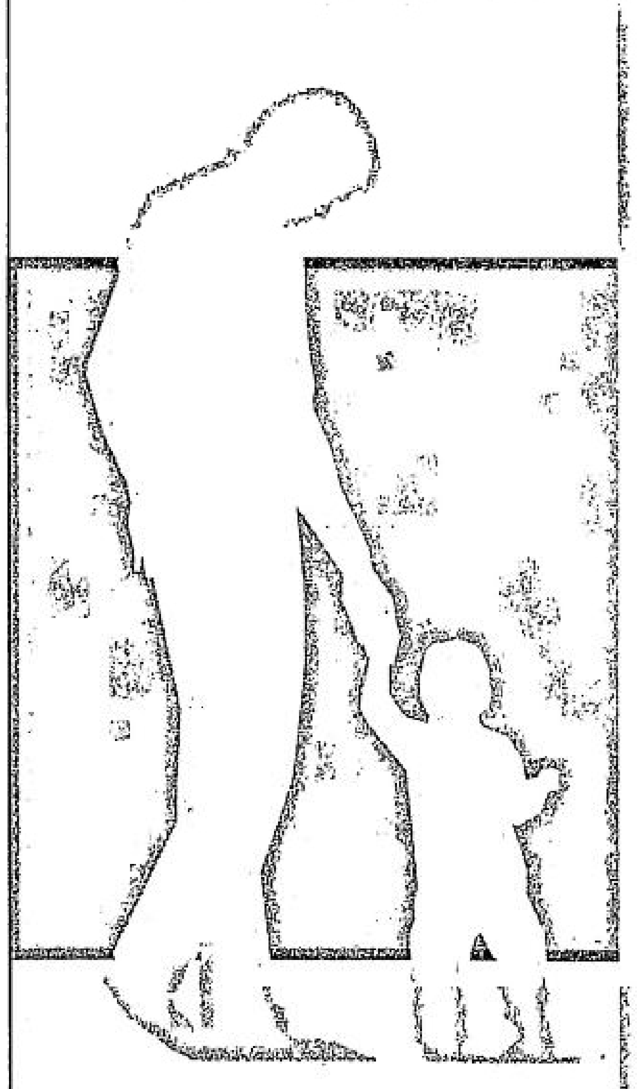
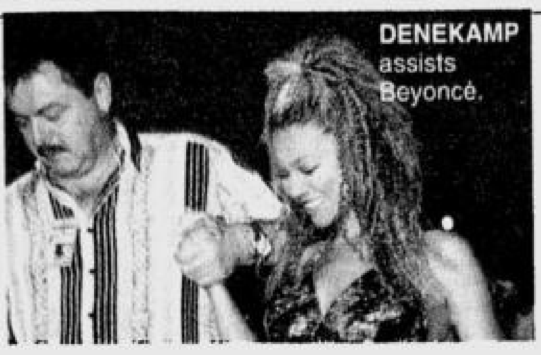



DENEKAMP assists Beyoncé.

SONY executives Aileen Cortez, Manny Rapadas and Tato Malay

SONY sales manager James Bernas.

MY day with Beyoncé

Surviving Destiny

(From page E2)

ways single out an artist. But it sells records so we are not complaining."

Being very young (Kelly and Michelle are 19, Beyoncé just turned 20), was it hard to get respect? "It's definitely hard to get respect at times," they said. "People don't take you seriously, sometimes they say, 'They're just girls, they just sing.'—but they don't realize that we barely get rest at night, or we don't have normal lives, or we work real hard, sometimes harder that most adults."

On the lighter side, I asked them, "When did you guys last misbehave?" To this, Kelly answered with a smile, "Umm, honestly and I'm not being funny, but we don't get time to misbehave at all."

Okay, okay—how about the last time you cried? "Well," it was Michelle's turn, "last week, Beyoncé cried when she could not talk. We don't want people to think we're faking and Destiny's Child is not the type of group that would lie about getting sick, because above all, we work hard and we want people to know that unless we're sick or we can't talk we will not show up."

This proves their commitment to their fans. They even have a song in their album, "The Story of Beauty," which is about a fan who was molested by her stepfather. "Dry your eyes, you're beautiful. You're not the one to blame, always realize your beauty and that you're beautiful," says the song, which the group dedicated to the fan to let her know that "she can go on with her life."

Lighter themes

Other songs in the album talk about lighter themes, such as "Happy Face," a song about having a positive attitude. There's "Apple Pie à la Mode," about the group's description of what a "delicious" man should be. My personal favorite is "Emotions," Destiny's soulful cover of the Bee Gees hit.

And "Bootylicious," which according to Michelle, means "being confident—looking good no matter what you have on, no matter what shape you are—whether big or small, tall or short. It's about going out to a club with your girl friends, knowing that you are fine and bootylicious!"

The subject of spirituality was inevitable, since the group reportedly has strong religious convictions. "We have to give honor to the one who has gotten us this far, and that is God—I know we're setting a lot of examples to other artists who feel it inside to want to say it and they are scared," Michelle said devotedly. "Now they're thanking God in awards shows, on their albums, they're singing Gospel songs, whatever, and that's wonderful! You should not be ashamed whatsoever. You're not ashamed to go to McDonalds and get a hamburger, so why should you be ashamed to thank God to give you all that money to get a hamburger?"

Commenting about our generation, Michelle said, "There are millions and millions of people in our generation, there may be a few bad apples in that bunch, but we do know there's a lot more who are trying to change the world and they outweigh those few bad ones."

Kelly agreed. "That's why we want to do more inspirational songs, which is a beautiful thing, because this world needs to hear about things being beautiful and making the world a better place. You know, there are so many crazy things going on in the world, why not try to have music bring it together?"

Hail, ye independent women!

She is sick of . . .

(From page E4)

thing is still pure and unadulterated, I know that I'll fall in love someday, madly and insanely, and it would last longer than, say, 10 years.

It's good to have personal views about love, but it's good to keep in touch with reality, too. I'm not saying that you're out of touch with reality, Cher, but maybe you are one of the dreamers Caloy was talking about. And there's nothing wrong about it. As long as what you believe in is based on what you see and hear around you, you can keep as many stars in your eyes as long as you want to or you can squint in doubt and slight disdain at other people's foolishness.

SEP

Belief in God is great. Few of the strong can focus the power of faith to heal. But for mortals like myself, there are simply too many things that can go wrong in life. Skirting different personalities on a day-to-day basis; discerning true goals after a near-death experience; waking up hoping for a brand-new day. There is a lot of pressure to show the world that you lead a normal life. And then you die.

My inner analyst says that what I see on television is hardly an imitation of the broader rules and experience in the real world, where red doesn't always mean stop and you never give your heart to a stranger. Who will you find in your bed tomorrow? Does it matter today? When was the last time you threw it all to the wind and watched it fly away, a careening comet in an ever-expanding universe? And then you die.

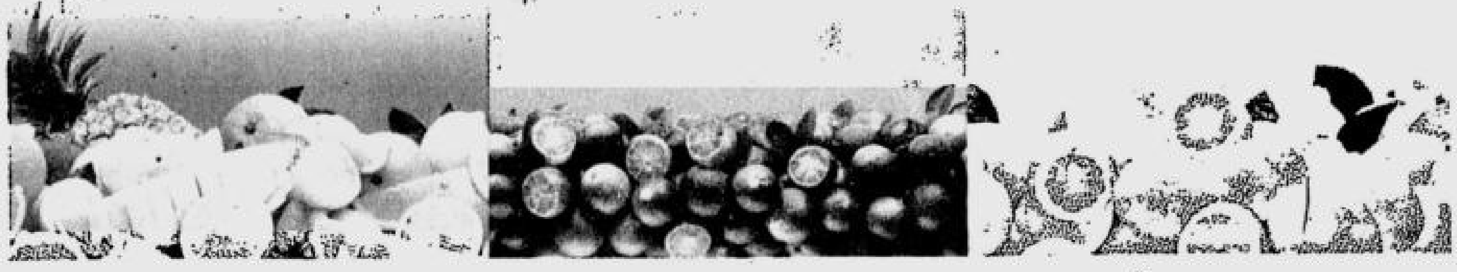
We came into this world in a rush of energy and excitement; and for a time we were the epitome of creation, the center of the universe. We wrote the scripts we've all wanted to mouth, made sketches of the sunsets we'd see, and older now, we look for the colors and actors to conspire to make them true. People need these archetypal, sometimes embellished projections, reminding them of how they hoped life would be. Snapshots of the perfect kiss on your wedding day; scanning your dividends through sunglasses with sand in-between your toes. These are a few of my favorite things, but seriously, when the dog bites and when the bee stings, it hurts, and all of a sudden Animal Planet can be a strange world of the hunter and the hunted. No more rationalization, no more justification for our need to believe in something that differentiates us from "beasts" and lower life forms like senators and city mayors. "Them that's got shall win, them that's not shall lose/So the Bible says, and it still is news."

Jack Hannah has it all figured out if you ask me. The Book of Blarmey and Other Bizzarities says, "If life were a story, animals have the summary."

Welcome to the Chatroom, Cher, PA, USA.

INXS: Letterman fans, unite! Mondays to Saturdays, 12:30 p.m. on the E! Channel. Ferrari fans rock!

CALOY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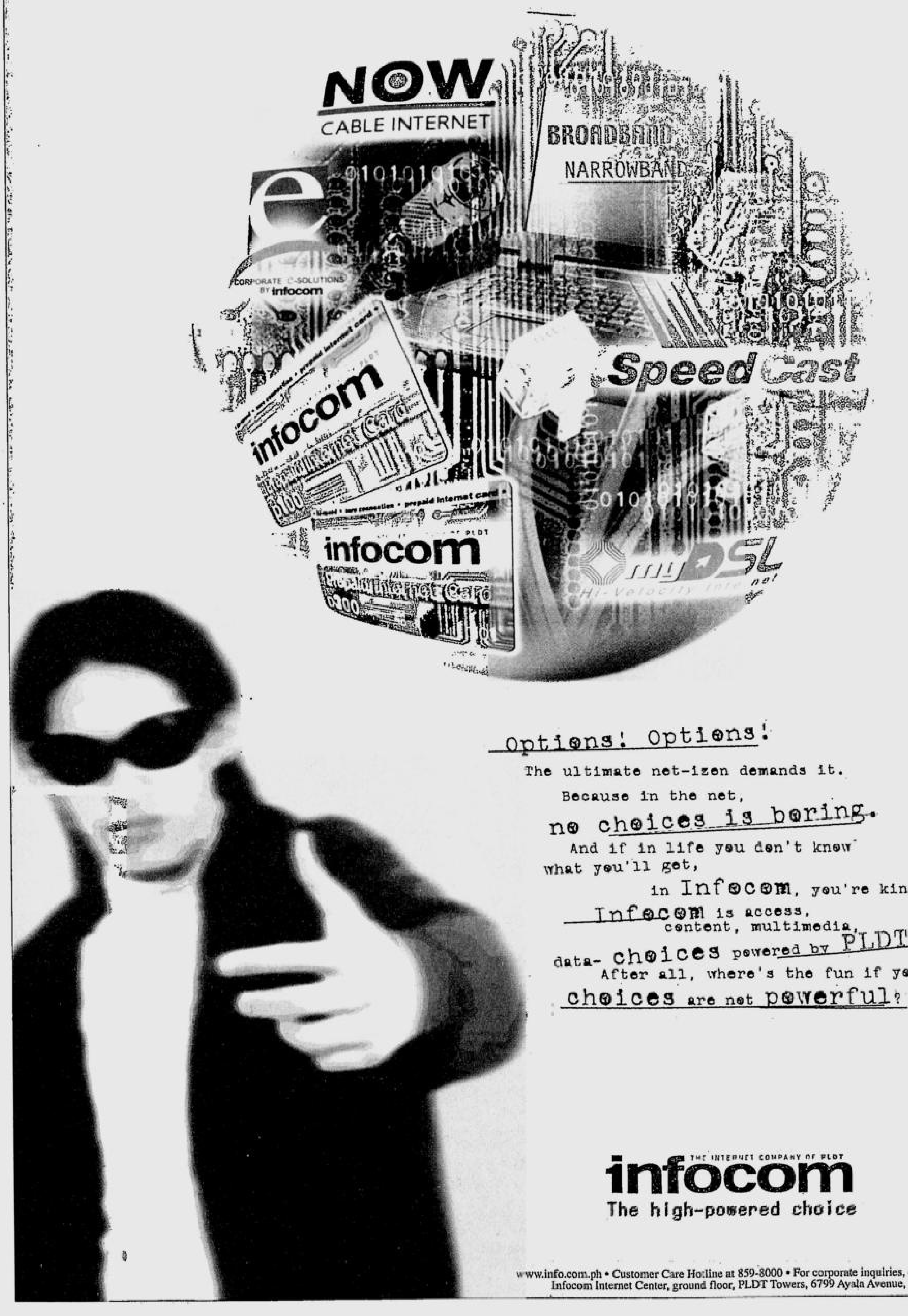

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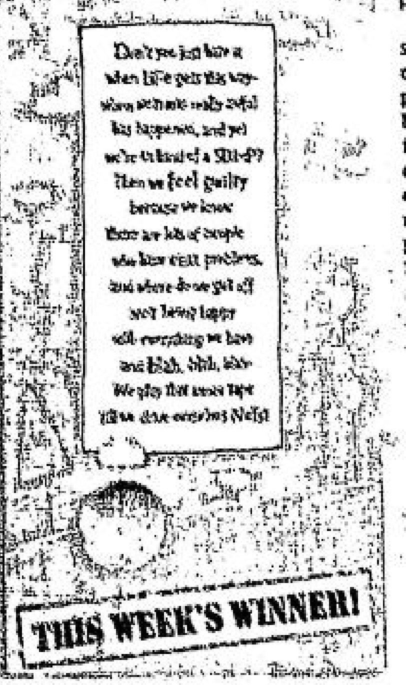
2bU! To be you!
Lifestyle Teen Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

The Between You and Me "Cardspeak" Contest!



Don't you just hate it
when life gets this way—
When nothing really awful
has happened, and yet
we're in kind of a SLUMP?
Then we feel guilty
because we know
there are lots of people
who have real problems,
and where do we get off
not being happy
with everything we have
and blah, blah, blah.
We play that same tape
(then) drive ourselves Nuts!

THIS WEEK'S WINNER!

Inside:
What we need to remember is that it's OK
to feel this way from time to time,
and that pretty soon,
without even knowing why
this phase WILL PASS. It always does.

This was the first **Between You and Me** card my girlfriend, Leah, gave me. It was our 3rd month together and like any couple starting out, we were beginning to have some problems. The first fights and misunderstandings were the worst. I guess it's because that's the time when the real "getting to know each other" part gets serious.

This card perfectly described our situation back then. We were "in kind of a slump" as the card says. We had problems, and would feel guilty for being inconsiderate of the other's feelings after we've talked things out. Our relationship had the ups and downs of a roller coaster. But this card made me realize that sometimes, people who love each other really have to go through these stages to make their relationship grow stronger. And that giving up isn't the way to solve the problems.

It's been two years since and Leah and I are still together. We're a lot stronger now. These cards helped us go through the most challenging times of our relationship. It didn't matter who gave the card. The great thing about it was that we always found a card that seemed to have been written especially for us.

We have so much to thank for right now, and one of them would be the cards we give each other--the **Between You and Me** cards.

- Arvin Atal
352 N. G. Papa St.,
Tuktukan,
Taguig, Metro Manila

Congrats, Arvin!
You and Leah won this!

HURRY! THERE'S STILL TIME!

You can still make it to **Hallmark's Between You & Me "Cardspeak"** Contest! Send us the most memorable Between You & Me card you received and tell us why it's "sent" in 300 words or less. If your entry is chosen, your story will be printed in the section of 2bU!. And if that's not enough, you also get to win two cool *Swatch* watches! (That's one for you and one for the person who sent you the card). Mail your entries to: *Filstar Distributors Corporation* 3F [illegible] Bldg. 17 Jose Cruz St., Ugong, Pasig City 1604. Include your name, address & contact number. Contest ends June 13, 2001. So keep 'em coming! Catch Joe D'Mango's *Love Notes* every Friday ([illegible]) at WAVE 89.1 as he reads your favorite Between You & Me cards and every Sunday in the Inquirer's Lifestyle section.
www.hallmark.com

She is sick of people mistaking love for something less than what it is

DEAR Caloy,

I have read your column in the Feb. 28 issue. I cannot help but notice your cynical views about love. If you do not mind, I would like to express my opinion on this matter.

Somehow, you belittled love as just the four-letter word that is nonexistent except in the mind of a dreamer. You have categorized love as a product of commercialism. I was surprised to hear such views for I know that love is the source of everything that is good in this universe. Am I one of those dreamers that you mentioned? Maybe I am. I do not really know. All I know is the fact that we are still in this world, breathing, walking and living. We should continue to dream. We should continue to believe in goodness and hence, love. For love is the source of our existence. It is the force that makes the world revolve around the sun. It sounds cheap. But you know what (who) makes love sound cheap? It is the people who mistake infatuation, admiration or even lust for love. No wonder the world has gone mad. People have been blinded by life's tribulations that no one could see the truth. The truth is that God is love. God is good. Love is therefore good. To convince the general public that love does not exist is to convince them that God does not exist.

I am not an evangelist trying to convey God's message nor a spiritual fanatic. I am just your typical girl who is sick of people mistaking love for something less than what it truly is.

CHER, PA, USA

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino

Does love really exist? Or is it just a fantastic notion we use to conform to certain pressures to seek a mate and then have a place in normalcy?

I was taught in school of the many levels of love. Erotic love (derived from the god Eros), filial or brotherly love, love for God, love for country and love of self, or narcissism, among others. In the real world, material things evoke a passion to the point of "loooving" shopping, rare steak, or the theater.

Science has probed the many rituals per culture as to finding a mate. That there is a science in beauty and in the selection of a strong breadwinner tells us that there are certain things that attract us to other people, mostly subconsciously. That is a prime example of the natural process of survival, and that of the fittest.

French philosopher Voltaire once said, "If God didn't exist, then we would have invented him." I do believe in a force before Creation, a so-called prime mover, and this dead man's words lead me to believe that, in junction with the fact that love, either physical or love for abstract ideas, respond to different needs as human beings with a higher capacity for cognizance and consciousness, especially in the pursuit of a purpose. Love itself is a manufactured state of mind meant to integrate a sense of sophistication in natural selection. The existence of God and love is as necessary as a necessary evil and hate. Another invention of humans is time—giving us a necessary sense of relationship within our changing habitat and environment.

Take both love and hate away and what is left in us is the intrinsic value of survival and the propagation of our line. But since humans are social beings, there is a dependence on community for support, dependence on the opposite sex for "procreation," and a need for self-respect and inner understanding for peace of mind. This would leave the success of humanity as a whole to be our Utopia, The Kingdom, Heaven. Kinda like "AntZ." Sadly, the progress of humans as we know it brings with it a constancy in yearning for something that is higher, richer and can be more powerful in and out of our lives yet unfathomable and often only possible in the view of rose-colored glasses. As a species, we have not even mastered the social responsibility in equality, codependence and a harmonious balance with the environment and much less with our selves.

Thanks for your input, Cher, and welcome to the Chatroom.

I wouldn't want to receive hate mail so I'm going try to play the boring reconciling part. Besides, what other part is there for me to play since both you and Caloy have opposing views about love. Maybe love is overrated. Maybe the theoretic glory we give it only exists inside an eternal optimist's brain. Maybe each of us should stop weaving its definitions and just shut up and let other people believe what they want to believe. I am slightly cynical about love but only when it concerns other people, because in a secret part of my brain where every-

SHE/ p.E3

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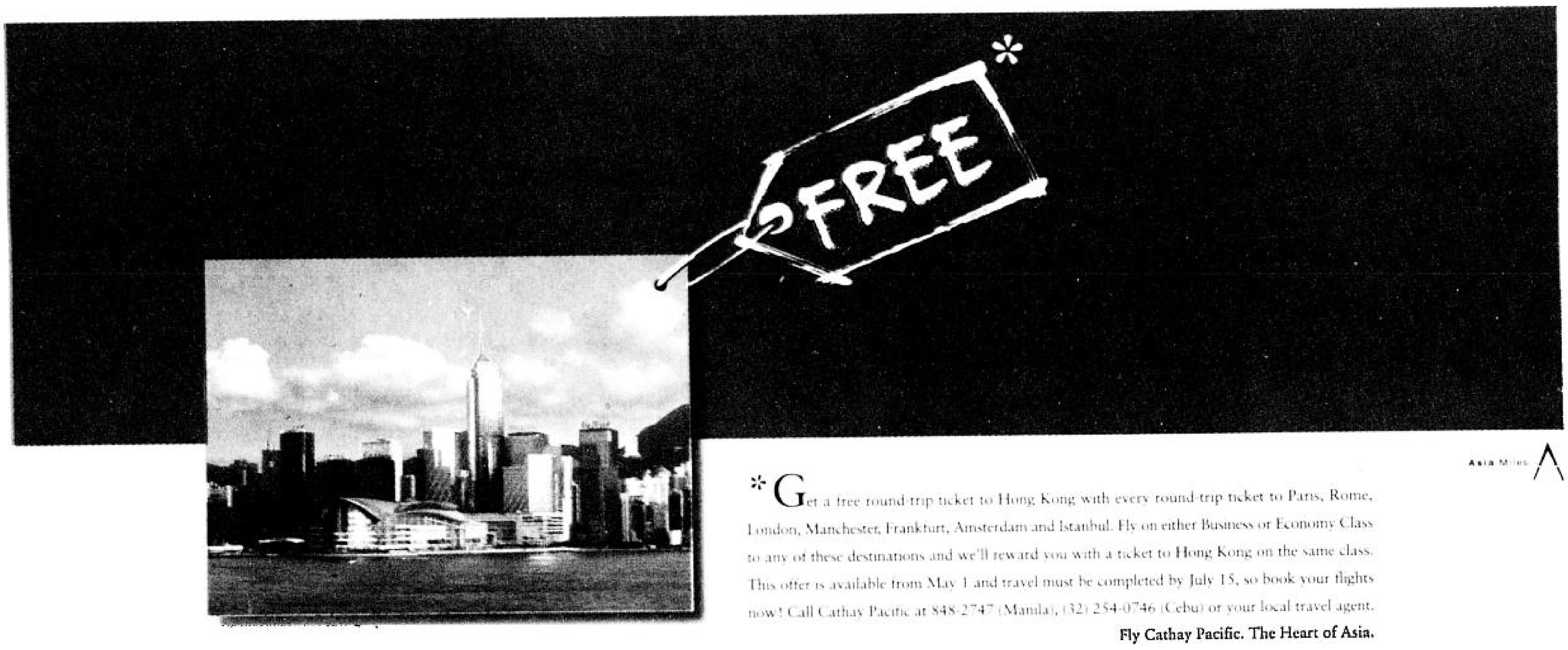

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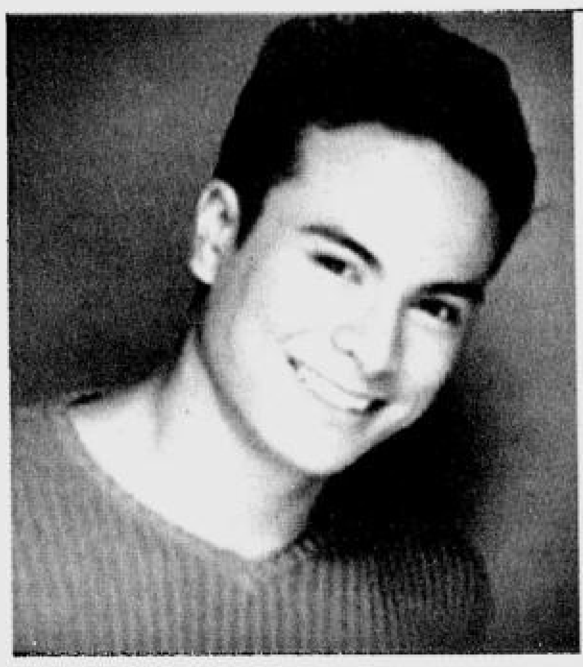

From Norway, with lots of kisses

Filipino-Norwegian Rafael Rosell IV is the guy in the new Close-up commercial blowing kisses all around. Girls are running crazy just to catch a dab of the aimless smack

Story on page F2

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From Norway, with lots of kisses

BY JASON DOPLITO
2bU! correspondent

HIS face is instantly recognizable. After the release of his commercial last April, he has been spotted on television programs, billboard ads and toothpaste boxes. Aside from that, he has also appeared as a guest cohost in "Keep On Dancing," and created quite a splash with a stint on "Maalaala Mo Kaya." He was also recently launched as a member of Star Circle Batch 9. Things may be snowballing for 18-year-old Rafael Rosell IV. But more things are in store for this former freshman nerd.

Rafael was born and raised in Norway. His geologist dad and nurse mom had been working in the Scandinavian country. He was born on Nov. 10, 1982, stayed there for two years and came for a year here in the Philippines. Then his family moved back to Norway until he was 14 years old, with Rafael studying in London for two years. When he was 16, he went back to Norway to finish high school. He returned to this country, where the self-confessed aspiring actor has been living for 10 months now. "I definitely miss my family and friends in high school," he says. "Before I thought it was cool to be independent, to move away from the family for a while. But now I feel lonely."

With his Western looks, Rafael is easy to dismiss as another half-Filipino actor who knows nothing about our culture and cannot speak nor understand a bit of Tagalog. But all that is wrong. "I do know some of the Filipino culture. The family practices some Filipino traditions and values. My parents, for instance, gave me an earlier curfew than others. They've loosened up, though, because they've realized that I was growing up in Norway and we had to adjust to the culture there. But when I compare my parents to the parents here, my parents aren't strict at all," Rafael says.

"Also, I am pure Filipino in blood. My citizenship may be Norwegian, but that was just because I was born and raised there. My dad is Cebuano and my mom is Bicolano."

After we learned he is pure Filipino, the next question was inevitable: Where did he get his looks? "Well, my dad said he's a bit Spanish, but I'm not sure if it's true. I think he was just joking," he says smiling.

Rafael also completely understands Filipino and can even speak it. "My Tagalog? It's okay *daw, sabi nila*. I understand it pretty well," he says. "I don't have any problems speaking it. I mean, I don't have to think when [I'm constructing] a sentence. But my problem's the pronunciation and the tone. I have the Cebuano accent."

Rafael, though, hasn't had any trouble introducing himself to the public, thanks to its response to that toothpaste commercial where he plays a bartender throwing kisses to a girl. The commercial even generated a number of spoofs on a certain comedy show.

Rafael was discovered in one of ABS-CBN's workshops, when one of the directors was looking for a model to cast in a Pond's commercial. When he got accepted, he played a guy who was juggling different Ponds products in the background. "There were Unilever people there," Rafael continues. "One came up to me and asked if he could take a look at my teeth. So I showed him my teeth, and he said, 'I could use your VTR for us.' So it all started from there." And the rest, as they say, is history.

Was he aware of the impact this commercial was going to make? "No, I wasn't aware of that at all. When they told me I got the Ponds commercial, I was like, 'Yeah, okay, good. Thanks.' And they said, 'Oh, and they're considering you for another TV commercial as well,' and I said, 'Oh, okay.' So I did the two commercials. I was thinking, 'Yeah, it was a good concept,' but I didn't realize it was so

big. And then when [the Close-Up] commercial came out, I was like, 'Wow, that's me! All that billboard! And it's me on every toothpaste box!'"

Rafael does get recognized a lot as "the Close-Up boy." "It's a good product. I mean, it's an honor to be associated with it," he explains. "But. of course, I'd like to be known as Rafael Rosell. I mean, now it's okay [to be branded as 'the Close-Up boy'] because it just aired. I guess, later on, I'll try to develop my own image," he explains.

When asked about his plans, Rafael says he thinks of himself more as a day-to-day person. "I take the day as it comes." With this, he shows us a quote stored in his cell phone that describes how he goes on about his life. It says: "The secret of happiness is to enjoy the day God has given you. Leave tomorrow in His hands. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about its own things."

The following are excerpts from the interview describing the kind of high school he went to in Norway and other thoughts.

How were you during school opening? Were you always excited?

Actually, I'm really shy. You have new classmates, new people, so at the beginning of each school level, I'm, like, really tight. Then after gaining a couple of friends, I open up more.

How do you actually overcome shyness and were you ever bullied?

Well, the shyness goes away after I get to know more people. *Halimbawa*, you meet a new person, right? You don't open up immediately. You know, you have to check out how the person behaves just to see how you can open up to the person. Actually, I was only picked on when I was in Grade 1; I just don't remember how it stopped. I guess you just don't mind it, because if they're picking on you, it's just because they're insecure, that's all.

But you were never a bully?

No, never. Ah, well, when I met my best friend, we developed other friends and whenever we argued, we all bullied each other just for fun.

Were you ever stereotyped?

Oh, I have to admit that during my first year in high school, I and my best friend were considered nerds because we were so childish. I mean, we still are, but then later on, I don't know what happened. I guess it was that we were into dancing and sports and stuff that we got rid of that "nerdy" thing.

Were you famous or popular in school?

The Filipinos there, they really stood out in our school because they were all into dancing, singing and acting. So there were about two or three Filipinos in high school, so people knew who you were. But we never formed a group or a fraternity.

What were your favorite subjects?

Just lunch break...(Laughter) Probably Physical Education, especially basketball. I had Math as a favorite subject for a period, but after a while, it became difficult so I kind of didn't like that anymore. (Laughs)

You're not in school now. Are you planning to pursue your studies?

Yeah, I want to prioritize my studies because I need something to fall back on in case [show biz] doesn't go well, right? So next year, or late this year, I'm planning to enroll in a school where I can take up mass communications or business administration. Maybe economics, too. I need a school flexible enough so I can handle acting and studies at the same time.

What if you were asked to prioritize just one?

I guess it would be studies. This is what my dad says, that I need to take studies [seriously] because I need something to fall back on. But then in ABS-CBN, my fellow artists say that school will always be there, but show biz is just temporary. So, I don't know actually. I'll just take come what may.

Are you still in touch with your high school friends?

Yeah.

And do they know what's going on with you now?

I think three of them [do]. Because I came here so suddenly. I got an e-mail from ABS-CBN, saying I could try show biz out. So, three weeks after I finished school, I came here straight. I told my friend, "I'm moving to the Philippines, bye-bye!" And he said, "Yeah right, Raf. You'll be back tomorrow." Then I e-mailed him a week later and I said, "I'm really here in the Philippines." And he said, "Oh, is that the reason I haven't seen you? What are you doing there?" I didn't want to tell them that I was in show biz in case I didn't make it. So I told him that I was here for a vacation. Then the people in college were asking, "Why did Rafael move there?" My friends explained that I went to a theater school, just for fun. Then one of my friends came over here. He bought so many toothpaste and showed it to the school in Norway. They were like, "Ah, so that's why he went there." And then in the Internet, I have some write-up, so they've also been checking that out. They've been congratulating me. They're really cool and supportive.

Linkin Park's rage, REM's revelation and PJ Harvey's diary

BY MAUI V. REYES
AND QUARK HENARES

REVIEWS

Hybrid Theory
Linkin Park
Warner Music

LET'S pretend Fred Durst was never born and the members of Korn hated music and never dreamt of picking up their instruments. Let's pretend Britney Spears and Blink 182 were the definition of pop culture, and that rap was strictly rap and rock was strictly rock. Now imagine five friends from South California who loved music, decided to form a band and named themselves Hybrid Theory, but then decided to call themselves Linkin Park instead and just call their first album "Hybrid Theory." And that band, my friends, in this world that we have just created, would be the best hardcore band there is under the rap-rock genre.

"Hybrid Theory" (produced by Don Gilmore, who worked with Eve 6, Lit and Pearl Jam) boasts of 12 foot-stomping songs that can either unleash all that adrenaline in your body or make you switch the radio off. Because even though too much rock isn't bad for your health, not one of the 12 tracks lacks the presence of emcee Mike Shinoda's screaming proclamations about how unfair the world is.

"One Step Closer," the first single (you remember the video—where the band looks like their headbanging was all choreographed), lays out what genre they're under. The song's theme of wanting to be heard and being "closer to the edge" is like a prologue to Papa Roach's "Last Resort." Shinoda orders us to shut up when he's talking to us. His demand makes us yawn. You're not talking, honey, you're screaming.

In our times, hating the world is considered a cool thing. Which is why Linkin Park's songs are based on hating everything and everybody. On "Points of Authority," the band hates people ("You like to think you're never wrong/You want to act like you're someone"). "By Myself" berates those who expect so much from them ("How do you expect/I will know what to do/ When all I know/Is what you tell me to"). They hate even more greedy people who don't understand them in "A Place for My Head" ("I want to be in another place/I hate when you don't understand").

Throughout the album, you'll notice our five little musicians are really five little brats who enjoy whining about every single imperfection in life. And, above all, all of it isn't *their* fault.

But that doesn't mean being a brat and hating the world is a bad thing. As the first song "Papercut" says, they're just a bunch of confused, paranoid guys who hear "voices in my head." Teens can relate to this (well okay, maybe not all). The second single, "Crawling," reminds me of Korn's "Falling Away From Me," and talks of being insecure and confusing what is real. "Runaway" seeks shelter from all the lies and wrong things taught to them, wanting to "know the truth/ instead of wondering why."

"Hybrid's" gems come at the end of the album. The last three tracks—"Forgotten," "Cure for the Itch" and "Pushing Me Away"—somehow stand out, what with good melodies and lyrics that hit home.

There's a strong bond between the musicians of Linkin Park. Shinoda's screaming doesn't drown out vocalist Chester Bennington's croons—in fact, the two blend well, almost as if their voices dance together every now and then. The rest of the band (Joseph Han, Brad Delson and Rob Bourdon) aren't mere background musicians, as proven on the track "Cure for the Itch," an instrumental cut where Hahn heats up those turntables.

Okay, snap out of that world. Think Korn, Limp Bizkit, Papa Roach and all the other rap-rock bands out there. "We want [the songs on the album] to have dynamics, but also a continuous cohesive flavor, so that you now what band you're listening to," Delson says on their website (www.linkin park. com). We'd hate to break it to you, Brad, but unless our little "world" were true, chances of that happening would be from slim to none.

But there's still hope. The band describes their music as "a constantly evolving experiment." That said, will somebody please get these guys back in the studio? Please.

Reveal
REM
Warner Music

NOTHING beats sitting in class on a rainy day and having that perfect CD spinning in your Discman as you watch the rain that never seems to end outside your window. What better CD to play in the background than REM's 14th album, "Reveal"?

I've never owned an REM album my entire life (call me a loser, I know). And it doesn't help my "being behind" with the fact that they released their first studio album the year I was born. But I know for a fact that the band REM is such a sacred cow that I haven't heard anyone in my life say something nasty about them. And with "Reveal," I'm not going to be the first.

Judging by the past few singles, it's pretty obvious that the loudest REM can get is when Michael Stipe decides to throw himself around the room with heavy guitars and pounding piano keys going off in the background. Although he doesn't go anywhere near Sarah McLachlan-ish on this album, the way the trio (drummer Bill Berry said bye-5bye before they recorded 1998's "Up") put together music is amazing. Peter Buck and Mike Mills pull the strings as Stipe murmurs as if he's having a conversation with someone, tempting you to eavesdrop. Guest musicians also grace the album—Joey Waronker on drums, the Posies' Ken Stringfellow and the Young Fresh Fellows' Scott McCaughey on keyboards.

The first track, "The Lifting," sets the mood for the album: an airy, dreamy space where you're invited to stay as long as you like. Just be prepared to tackle almost every side of this thing we call love. "Reveal" delves into this issue, and what's beautiful about it is the way Stipe writes and sings it...with a sometimes been-there-done-that aura that doesn't come off as conceited, but instead innocent in an eerie sort of way. He's scared of love but is brave enough to face it and everything that comes along with it in the single "Imitation of life" ("This lightning storm/ This tidal wave/This avalanche/ I'm not afraid/C'mon, c'mon, no one can see me cry"). He laments how shattered he is in "I'll Take the Rain," wondering why things couldn't work out and answers his own questions ("I used to think/ As birds take wing/ They can sing through life/Why can't we?"), then morphs into someone terrified of trying to love in "I've Been High" ("Do my eyes seem empty?/ I've forgotten how this feels").

The best cuts on this album (as if the entire album isn't a winner on its own), would be "Saturn Return," about looking for a loophole out of life, "She Just Wants to Be," a song about moving on, and "All the Way to Reno (you're gonna be a star)."

Haunting yet still very calming, "Reveal" only proves that Berry's departure hasn't softened Stipe's lyrics or the band's passion for playing. This is, after all, REM's 20th year of playing together. And even though the making of "Reveal" makes eyebrows raise (Stipe would fly to Israel, France, Italy or Denmark when he needed inspiration in between recording, and had their producer and engineer build a nest in a 700-year-old house with a garden and foxes and ancient trees and a train in the backyard so he could write), the album makes all that plane mileage worth it. As Stipe says, "[The songs] have the impression of air and breath and flying away."

We couldn't agree more.

LINKIN PARK
HYBRID THEORY

Stories from the City, Stories from the Sea
PJ Harvey
Island Records/MCA Universal

THERE are those musicians whose music become instant hits; their lyrics are so sing-able, their melodies so catchy. And then there are the musicians' musicians; people who don't necessarily make hits but who put so much innovation and heart into their material that the hitmakers can't help but look up to and be awed by them. PJ Harvey belongs to the second category. She will never be an Alanis Morissette or a Jewel, but she will probably inspire more people. In fact, nothing less than the word "inspiring" could be used to describe her latest album, "Stories from the City, Stories from fhe Sea." The album, a love letter to the city of New York, is a diary of lost moments, painful goodbyes and picking oneself up after. How do I know this? I don't, really. I just felt it by listening to the album.

The album reads just like a diary. It begins with "Big Exit," a song about entering a new place and being afraid of all the violence and crime going around. It then segues into the carrier single "Good Fortune," which is about finding someone special in such a scary place and slowly falling in love with him as you tour the city. More emotions abound, except it's hard to define them since they come as images in your head: sharing your first kiss as stars shoot across the sky, or watching the lights flash on a rooftop in Brooklyn at 1 a.m., or the sound of guns and helicopters going by as you sleep.

And then there is one of my favorite songs of last year: the hauntingly beautiful "This Mess We're In," which is a duet between Harvey and the equally brilliant Thom Yorke of Radiohead. The anti-love song, about the fears and desires that come about as two people share a moment of silence in the very noisy city, pits Yorke's sing-song-y wail perfectly against Harvey's no-nonsense singing. In fact, one gets the same feeling of tragedy and hope by watching "The Book Of Life," the movie Harvey starred in before she made this record.

There are some albums that I like to call "mood albums"; albums you don't necessarily listen to repeatedly but pop in once in a while when you're in a certain mood. The songs aren't necessarily catchy and singable to, but the way they affect you and how they seem to know your current state of mind is 10 times more powerful than listening to your current fave for the nth time. And as a disclaimer, I'm no big PJ Harvey fan. In fact, I didn't like her '95 album, "To Bring You My Love."

This one is special though, and I'd count it among my Top 10 albums of last year. "Stories" is dark but not angsty, questioning but not judging, touching but not romantic. Harvey's music doesn't have any sort of longing to become an MTV star, but upon listening to this album, one gets the feeling that she really wants to tell you her story and respects you enough to know that you're listening. I have nothing but respect and admiration for that.

Trendy yet durable

WITH THE HYPE of summer down, new preparations are underway for a bigger, more challenging and exciting adventure—school.

By now, students must be shopping for their uniforms, books, shoes, bags and other school requirements.

Among the accessories students bring to school, the school bag serves as a functional item that they can bring along to many places and use for their various activities, even "extra-curriculars."

Eastpak, the top backpack choice for teens in Europe, shares the following tips for those raring to go back to school (and the gimmicks thereafter):

- Choose a school bag that is simple but functional and durable in design. This means no flashy colors, transparent or thin fabric, or even old-fashioned leathery and heavy material that may only look cool but will wear out quicker.
- Shoulder bags may be equipped to hold volumes of stuff, but a backpack will serve not only as a school bag but as a trendy accessory you can use after school.
- Pack only the school stuff that you need for the day, plus other essentials. Don't force volumes of books or papers in your bag to avoid easy wear and tear.
- Always sling both straps of your backpack onto your shoulders, specially if carrying a heavy load. Carrying only one strap on one shoulder may sometimes cause posture deformation.
- Utilize the features of your bag, such as side and inside pockets for holding small items, and special pockets designed to hold modern accessories. Put the rest of your books, notebooks and papers propped inside your bag.
- Use a solid filer such as binder or folder made of hard material to keep your paper stuff in place and avoid crumpling.
- Use compact and sturdy materials for packing your lunch, such as plastic containers, to avoid spilling the contents in your bag.
- Since you will be using your school bag for every school day for a long period of time, use a brand that is "built to resist" all the hazards of weather and other posing challenges in or out of the school environment.

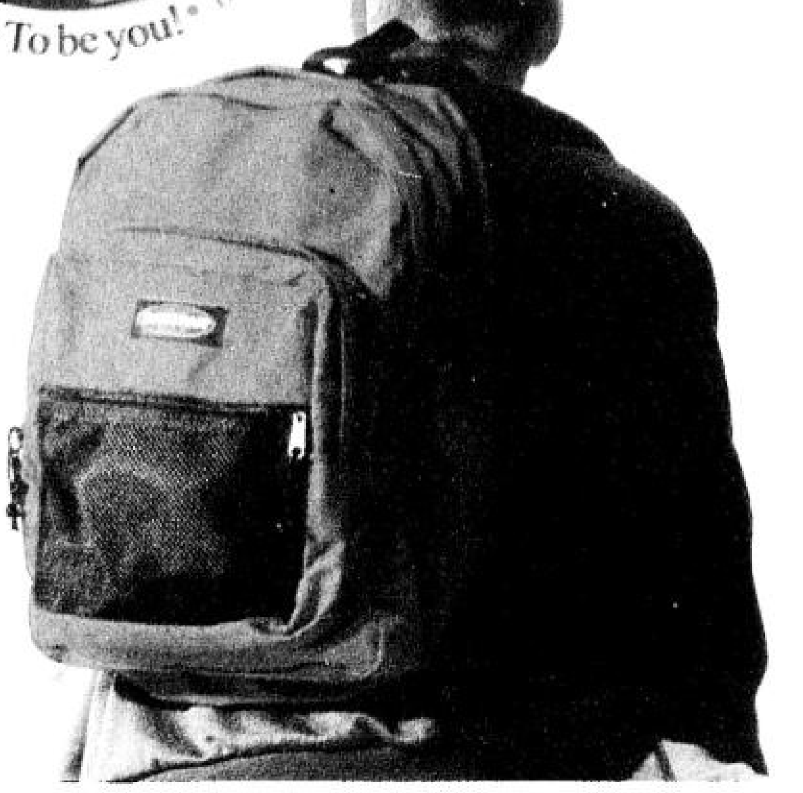
Eastpak offers such qualities in a backpack best suited for today's school youths. It is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Sports Resources Inc. (SRI) and currently maintains a strong market in the US, Europe and soon, in all of Asia.

New models bearing quilted and added padding make Eastpak backpacks now more comfortable. Other models have been installed with a "groove" that enables air to circulate in the user's back, as well as put ease to carrying heavy loads. The shoulder straps have been altered to contain SGS, which stands for Shoulder Grip System, a patented material that keeps the backpack's straps from slipping off the user's shoulders. The straps are now also extra wide, padded and curved and ergonomically designed to increase load stability and motion.

Eastpak backpacks now also contain pockets for almost any gadget, such as the diskman/walkman pocket with a cord port for earphones to slip through, and other containers to hold laptops and diskettes. A sling attached to the shoulder strap can also hold a cell phone, keys and pens.

Other modern features to suit active lifestyles are big, industrial-strength zippers, deluxe pocket organizers (with compartment for key chains, pens and CDs), thick quilted back panels (for protection from hard objects), and mesh channeled back panels (to keep the back cool).

Eastpak backpacks are available at all Toby's Sports and Hobbies outlets, Royal Sporting House, Odyssey Music Store, Olympic Village, Chris Sports Plaza and other leading bags, sports and hobbies stores.



Be cool with new campus wear

EXCITED teens were recently treated to a preview of the latest school fashion when the country's coolest teen brands staged "Campus Cool," a series of mini-fashion shows featuring the trendiest campus wear and gear.

A colorful showcase of the newest school apparel and accessories from Kickers, JanSport, Hedger, LA Gear, Trunk Co. and Cartoon Studio, the first "Campus Cool" event was hosted by Bernard Palanca and Audrey Tan. During the show, young and vibrant models sashayed down the runway carrying and wearing the latest collection of bags, apparel and accessories perfectly suited to every student's busy school life.

The event also provided teens with lots of fun-filled activities like henna tattooing, braiding and face-painting. Several booths were likewise set up to add spice to the afternoon's activities. The Kick the Goal Game Booth by Kickers, JanSport's Pack of Luck guessing game and Hedgren's Pachinco Game attracted a huge following.

Music was provided by hip band Barbie's Cradle, which wowed the audience with a live performance of their most popular hits. What's more, loads of exciting prizes were handed out to lucky participants.

"It's great that Kickers, JanSport, Hedgren, LA Gear, Trunk Co. and Cartoon Studio have thought of coming up with an event like this," says 16-year-old Carmina Suarez, one of the many teens who trooped to SM North Edsa to watch the event. "Seeing the newest line of clothes, shoes and accessories from these favorite brands of mine is really exciting and makes me want to wear casual clothes all the time," she enthuses.

"Campus Cool" will once again be held on June 2 at Robinsons Place Manila.

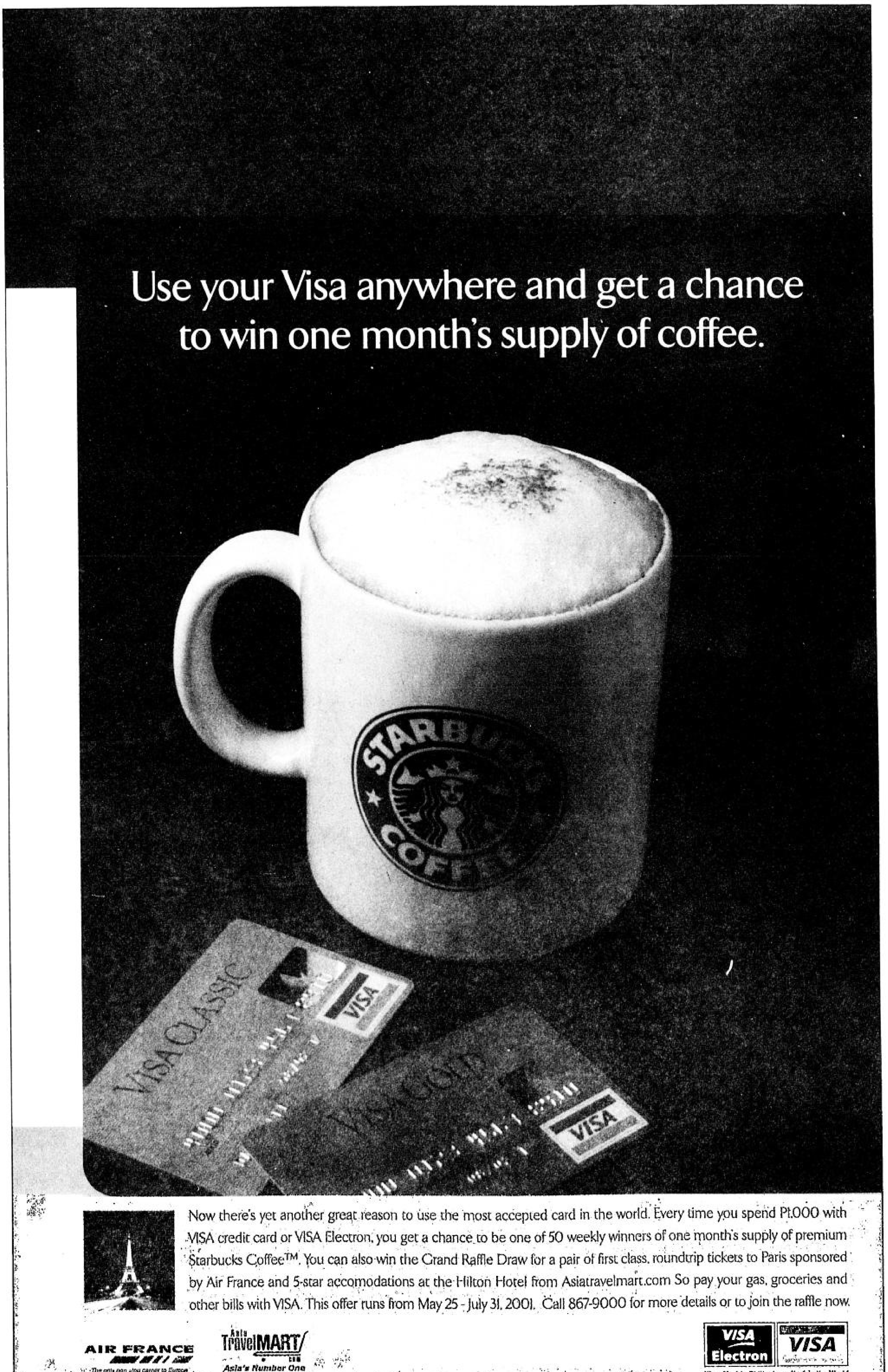
Kickers, JanSport, Hedgren, LA Gear, Trunk Co. and Cartoon Studio products are available at all leading department stores and select specialty outlets nationwide.

Math made a little less difficult

DO you hate Math? Tired of those mind-boggling algebraic equations, trigonometric conundrums and geometrical problems? Drained by long hours of concentrating on a Math problem that you can't solve? Hopeless? Not for long. MSA Tutorial and Review Center shares with you tips on how to deal with Math and get high test scores:

- Since it's summer and you're bumming around the house, browse through big brother's old Math textbooks and list down equation formulas.
- Practice answering Math problems and exercises found in every chapter and have your answers checked by experts.
- Ask experts to help you solve the problems and show you how the computation is done.
- Familiarize yourself with Math equation and formulas by hanging or posting a list in your room to be easily remembered.
- Thinking that Math is difficult will make it doubly hard for you. Think of it as a challenge.
- Always remember that a mathematical problem always has a solution. In solving one, do not panic, analyze the problem and concentrate to get the answer.
- In school, if Ms Math teacher looks frightening, don't fear. She's one sweet lady sharing her time to help you with the subject.
- Don't hesitate to ask questions and clarifications. It's a way to show interest and learning.
- If you're shy to ask questions in class, approach the teacher afterward. It won't hurt to ask for extra practice work.
- Ask Mom to buy you an MSA Reviewer Book, which contains practice tests in different subjects areas, including Math.
- Review weeks before the exam to avoid cramming and to have ample time to review other subjects.
- Lastly, pray. You have done your best. Let divine intervention set in.

Learning is fun if done with the heart. Embark on this challenge. It's like powering your way to the top of the mountain, the mountain of learning, and moving toward fulfillment and success. Love Math.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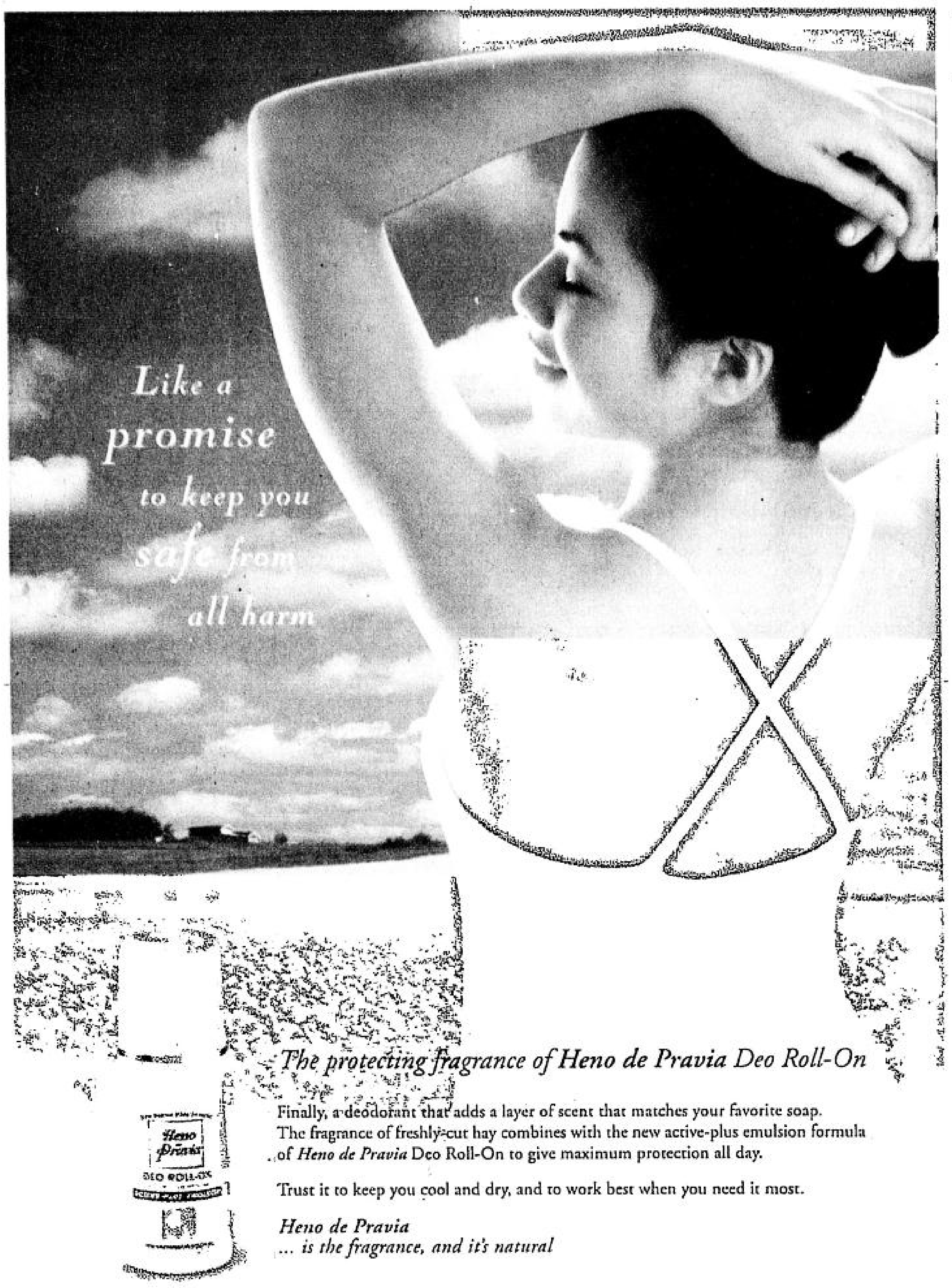

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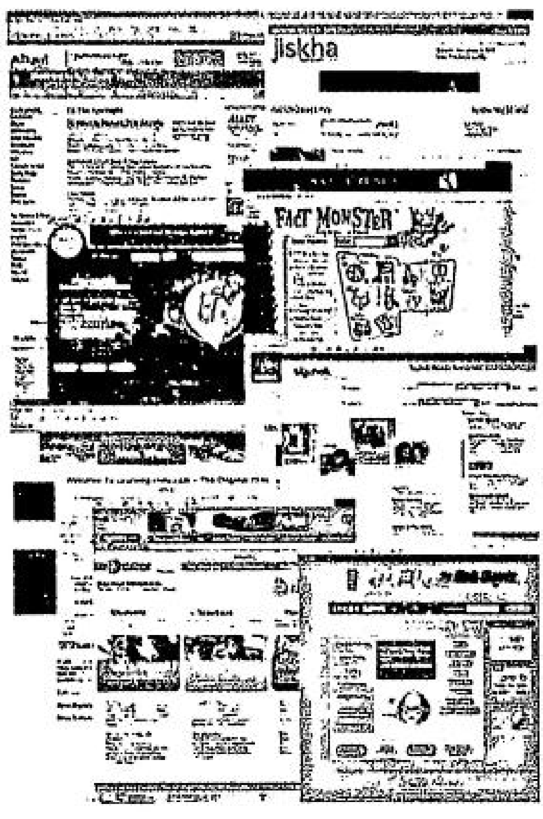
Doing homework in the cyber age

BY GARY MERCADO

Get tutorials and help from the Internet



THE BEST way to get your parents to get a PC with Internet access is to declare with forceful assertion, "It'll help with my homework!" Homework, of course, comes after you install Counterstrike and NBALive and download tons of MP3s.

Summer's over though and a PC will actually help with homework, like you said it would. Where to start? After a few hours, here's what I found out.

Everything

DiscoverySchool.com attempts to have everything for parents, kids and teachers. As a homework tool, it starts with general subjects such as Social Sciences, English and Math with attractions like Brain Boosters, Cybersurfari, DictionaryPlus and others. Clip Art Gallery gets extra points for providing you great graphics that you can download for your homework.

Bigchalk.com is an education site also for teachers, library media specialists (a high-tech term for librarians?), parents and students with online periodicals, homework help, lesson plans and practice test exams. It's got a giant reference library featuring more than 1,000 full-text magazines, newspapers, books, and radio/TV programs, plus thousands of full-color photographs and maps and educational audio/video resources.

Factmonster.com wins the cutest site of the week with its über cool interface. A subsite of a larger learning site for all ages called Learningnetwork.com, it targets kids with geography-specific content (yes, not just for the US) plus some really cool games and quizzes. I really think this site will get the most visits just because it looks so cool.

Less eye-candy

Jiskha Homework Help (www.jiskha.com) is far less eye-candy (read: looks like a textbook), but has a lot more content although a bit disorganized. You've got the Periodic Table of Elements sharing space with FrontPage tips and an article on "How MP3s Work." Anyway what it does have is a forum where you can interact with others.

Wordcentral.com by Merriam Webster can help you look up words (fast!) in the Student Dictionary and you can also build your own dictionary. You've got games like Daily Buzzword. This site won the 2000 Webby Award for Best Educational Website.

My favorite search engine Lycos has Homework Zone (www.lycoszone.com/homework), which pretty much has what the others have, except it uses its immense search engine database to help you find what you want.

So will doing homework get any easier with these resources? Depends. If you're lazy like me, it doesn't matter how high-tech it can get. You can have all the Internet aids available, but you will still end up homework-less if you lack resourcefulness and discipline.

Who mOVes you the mOst?
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Jude Eustaquio, 13
Golfer
"I know I need to share and inspire teens like me to get into sports. Someday, I want to be one of the top golfers in the PGA Tour."

Chris de Lima, 18
Archer
"Archery teaches focus, cooperation, and responsibility. These are the real prizes."

Kim Kwok, 14
Opera singer
"If you can sing opera, you can sing just about anything else, like pop. But if you just sing pop, you can't sing opera."

Miggy Yam, 6
Soccer player
"I practice hard and do my best because I want to be like Pele."

Mazie Cajucom, 16
Actress
"I was never shy. I always wanted to perform. I believe that if you really want something, don't be afraid -- go for it."

Mich Dulce, 19
Fashion designer
"Everything around me, the people I meet, and the journeys I embark on become the inspiration for my work and craft."

Hans Dimayuga, 12
Actor
"On stage, lessons are learned, pesos are earned. Great! But the best part comes with... the curtain call!"

Celine Guillermo, 6
Painter
" I love to paint. When I grow up, I want to be a painter, ballerina and a doctor."

Pauline Baniqued, 14
Writer
"I have always felt that in a string of words is a power that touches souls, and can heal those who have been terribly hurt."

Mariel Alfonso, 12
Ballet dancer
"Dancing teaches discipline. It taught me to focus, to develop my skills. It taught me how to balance both my studies and ballet."

Cara Damian, 5
Ice skater
"I like to feel the wind on my face. I like the feeling when I'm gliding."

Paolo Bagaman, 10
Honor student and leader
"My intelligence will help me persevere in helping my parents and my country. I want to be president someday."

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